

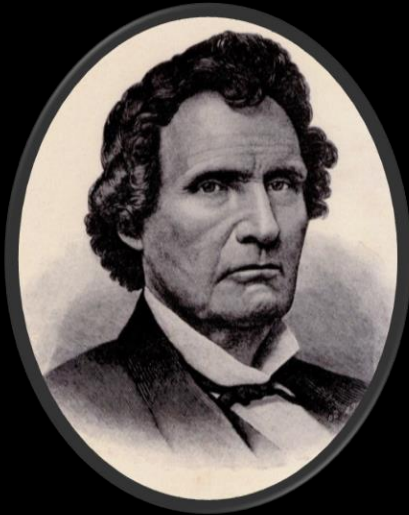


**July 2001**

# *Completing the Vision*

## Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy

Presented by  
LancasterHistory staff:



Tom Ryan, Ph.D., President & CEO

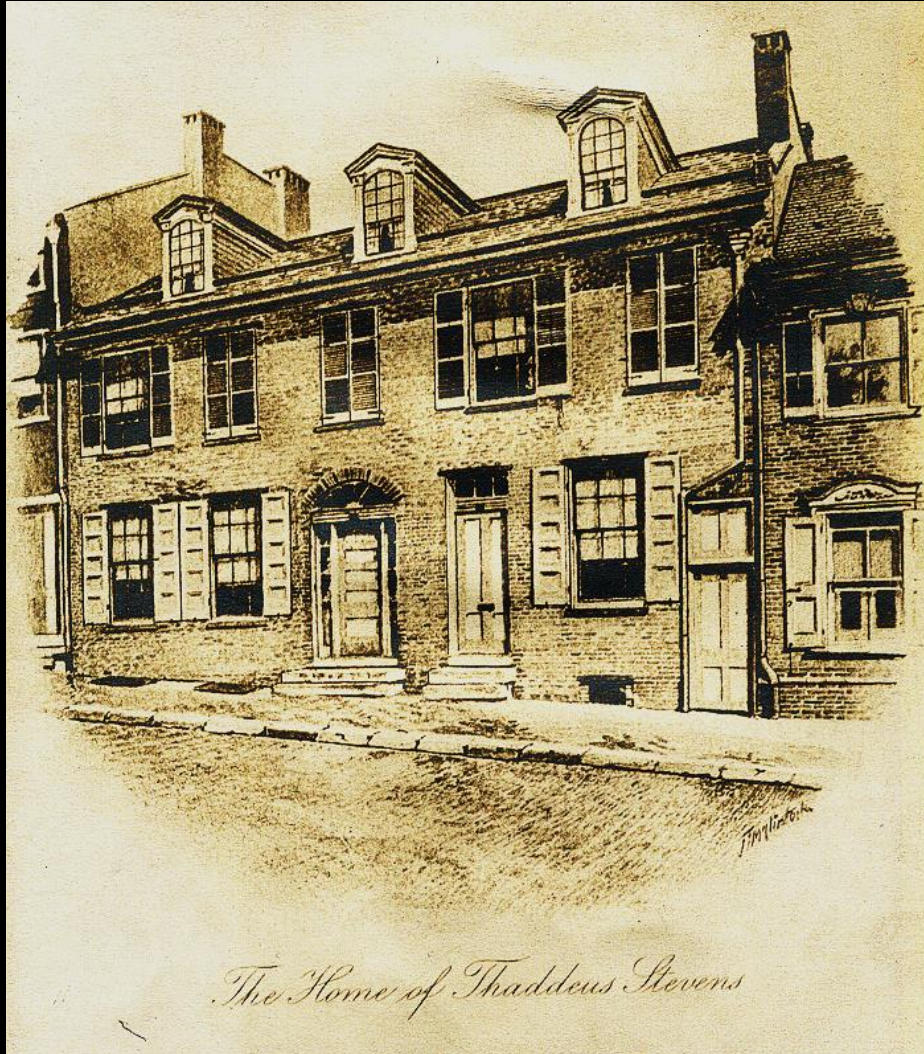
Robin Sarratt, Vice President

Randy Harris, Research & Outreach



September 30, 2022

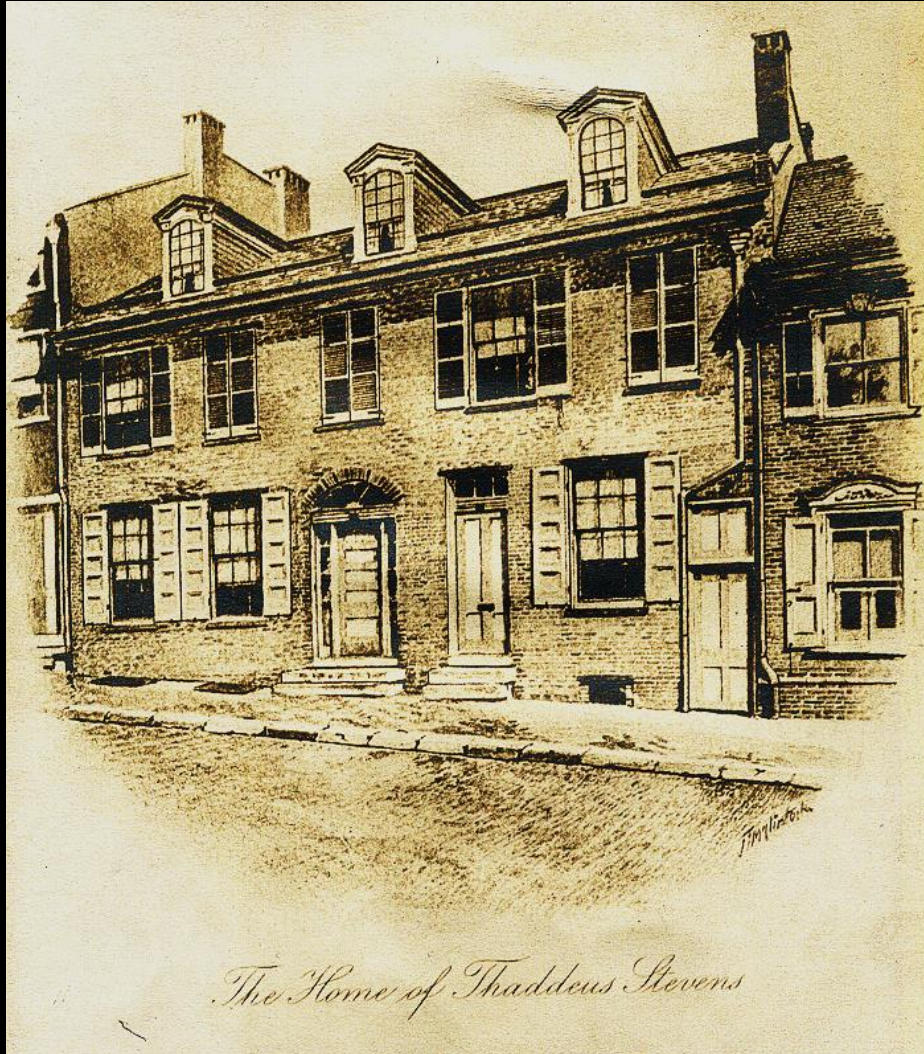




Thaddeus Stevens  
Home & Office  
45 & 47 S. Queen St.

*Frontispiece-  
Thomas F. Woodley's  
Stevens biography, 1934*





Built circa 1750  
1.5 story home.  
Lot 134 Hamilton Plan

Stevens adds office  
& upper floors  
early 1850s



# Drastic alterations, 1925

**BUILDING INSPECTOR'S PERMIT**

Building Inspector's Office, Lancaster, Pa., *May 17* 19*25*

Permit granted to *A. L. Ranck*  
*Alterations & Additions*

*45 S Queen* street between .....

Purpose *Apartment*

For whom *A Zaepfel*

Engineer's fee.....

Inspector's fee...*3.00*..... *5000*



Building permit. Contractor A. L. Ranck.  
For "apartments" at 45 South Queen Street,  
on behalf of owner Albert Zaepfel

A hand-drawn floor plan of a building, likely a residential or commercial structure, showing various rooms and structural details. The plan is oriented with a dashed line labeled "VINE" at the bottom and "S. QUEEN" on the left. The building is divided into several sections:

- Top Section:** A large room labeled "FURNE S. & W. HO." (Furnace and Water Heating) with a "THRU-OUT" and "STEEL POSTS". To the right is a "W. HO & A." (Water Heating and Attic) area with "CONC. FL. 1ST" (Concrete Floor 1st). A "STAIRS" area is also indicated.
- Middle Section:** A central area labeled "AUTO. STGE & SERVICE" (Auto Storage and Service) with a "CEM. FL." (Cement Floor). To the left is a "REST." (Restroom) and an "ENTR." (Entrance). To the right is a "PAINT W. HO" (Paint Water Heating) area with "CONC. FL." (Concrete Floor).
- Bottom Section:** A "PAINTS" area on the left, a "PAINT STGE & A." (Paint Storage and Attic) area in the center, and a "PAINT W. HO" (Paint Water Heating) area on the right. A "FR. 3D" (Front 3D) area is also shown.
- Structural Details:** The plan includes numerous dimensions (e.g., 39', 44', 33', 32', 24', 20', 18', 16', 14', 12', 10', 8', 6', 4', 3', 2', 1', 1/2', 3/4', 1/4', 1/8', 1/16', 1/32', 1/64', 1/128', 1/256', 1/512', 1/1024', 1/2048', 1/4096', 1/8192', 1/16384', 1/32768', 1/65536', 1/131072', 1/262144', 1/524288', 1/1048576', 1/2097152', 1/4194304', 1/8388608', 1/16777216', 1/33554432', 1/67108864', 1/134217728', 1/268435456', 1/536870912', 1/1073741824', 1/2147483648', 1/4294967296', 1/8589934592', 1/17179869184', 1/34359738368', 1/68719476736', 1/137438953472', 1/274877906944', 1/549755813888', 1/1099511627776', 1/2199023255552', 1/4398046511104', 1/8796093022208', 1/17592186044416', 1/35184372088832', 1/70368744177664', 1/140737488355328', 1/281474976710656', 1/562949953421312', 1/1125899906842624', 1/2251799813685248', 1/4503599627370496', 1/9007199254740992', 1/18014398509481984', 1/36028797018963968', 1/72057594037927936', 1/144115188075855872', 1/288230376151711744', 1/576460752303423488', 1/1152921504606846976', 1/2305843009213693952', 1/4611686018427387904', 1/9223372036854775808', 1/18446744073709551616', 1/36893488147419103232', 1/73786976294838206464', 1/147573952589676412928', 1/295147905179352825856', 1/590295810358705651712', 1/1180591620717411303424', 1/2361183241434822606848', 1/4722366482869645213696', 1/9444732965739290427392', 1/18889465931478580854784', 1/37778931862957161709568', 1/75557863725914323419136', 1/151115727451828646838272', 1/302231454903657293676544', 1/604462909807314587353088', 1/1208925819614629174706176', 1/2417851639229258349412352', 1/4835703278458516698824704', 1/9671406556917033397649408', 1/19342813113834066795298816', 1/38685626227668133590597632', 1/77371252455336267181195264', 1/154742504910672534362390528', 1/309485009821345068724781056', 1/618970019642690137449562112', 1/1237940039285380274899124224', 1/2475880078570760549798248448', 1/4951760157141521099596496896', 1/9903520314283042199192993792', 1/19807040628566084398385987584', 1/39614081257132168796771975168', 1/79228162514264337593543950336', 1/158456325028528675187087900672', 1/316912650057057350374175801344', 1/633825300114114700748351602688', 1/1267650600228229401496703205376', 1/2535301200456458802993406410752', 1/5070602400912917605986812821504', 1/10141204801825835211973625643008', 1/20282409603651670423947251286016', 1/40564819207303340847894502572032', 1/81129638414606681695789005144064', 1/162259276829213363391578010288128', 1/324518553658426726783156020576256', 1/649037107316853453566312041152512', 1/1298074214633706907132624082305024', 1/2596148429267413814265248164610048', 1/5192296858534827628530496329220096', 1/10384593717069655257060992658440192', 1/20769187434139310514121985316880384', 1/41538374868278621028243970633760768', 1/83076749736557242056487941267521536', 1/166153499473114484112975882535043072', 1/332306998946228968225951765070086144', 1/664613997892457936451903530140172288', 1/1329227995784915872903807060280344576', 1/2658455991569831745807614120560689152', 1/5316911983139663491615228241121378304', 1/10633823966279326983230456482242756608', 1/21267647932558653966460912964485513216', 1/42535295865117307932921825928971026432', 1/85070591730234615865843651857942052864', 1/170141183460469231731687303715884105728', 1/340282366920938463463374607431768211456', 1/680564733841876926926749214863536422912', 1/1361129467683753853853498429727072845824', 1/2722258935367507707706996859454145691648', 1/5444517870735015415413993718908291383296', 1/10889035741470030830827987437816582766592', 1/21778071482940061661655974875633165533184', 1/43556142965880123323311949751266331066368', 1/87112285931760246646623899502532662132736', 1/174224571863520493293247799005065324265472', 1/348449143727040986586495598010130648530944', 1/696898287454081973172991196020261297061888', 1/1393796574908163946345982392040522594123776', 1/278759314981632789269196478408104518

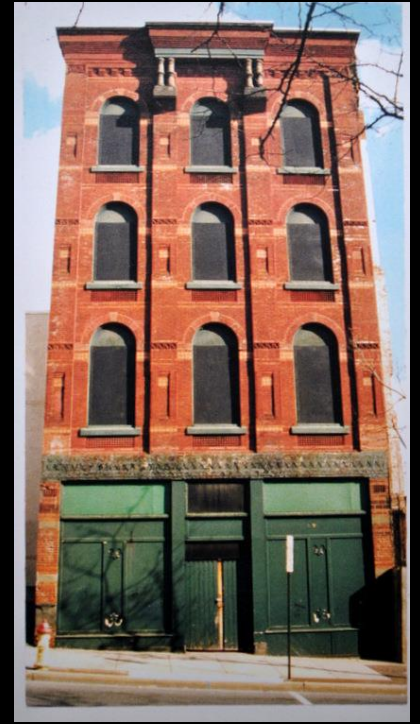
# Ease Vine Street

# Stevens & Smith Site, 1912, updated to 1941

## Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



Other nearby  
buildings  
suffered from  
neglect &  
inappropriate  
alterations



PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL and MUSEUM COMMISSION  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey Form

I. IDENTIFICATION:

Property Name Original Thaddeus Stevens House 1980 part of Hoeltzel

Location 45-47 S. Queen Street

Township Lancaster City County Lancaster

Owners Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY LANCASTER  
PROPERTY NAME Original Thaddeus Stevens House

1983





RECOMMENDATION: The original facade was heightened to three stories and cased in light colored brick in the 1920's, However, much of the very basic placement of the openings and overall proportion of this facade survive. At present, the facade probably will be maintained as is. Ideally it should be restored to its federal appearance and two story height, as seen in the two above cited old photographs. This would be difficult but by no means impossible. It may be noted that Steven's historical importance is better appreciated nationwide than it is in his home town.

*“It may be noted that Steven’s historical importance is better appreciated nationwide than it is in his home town,”*

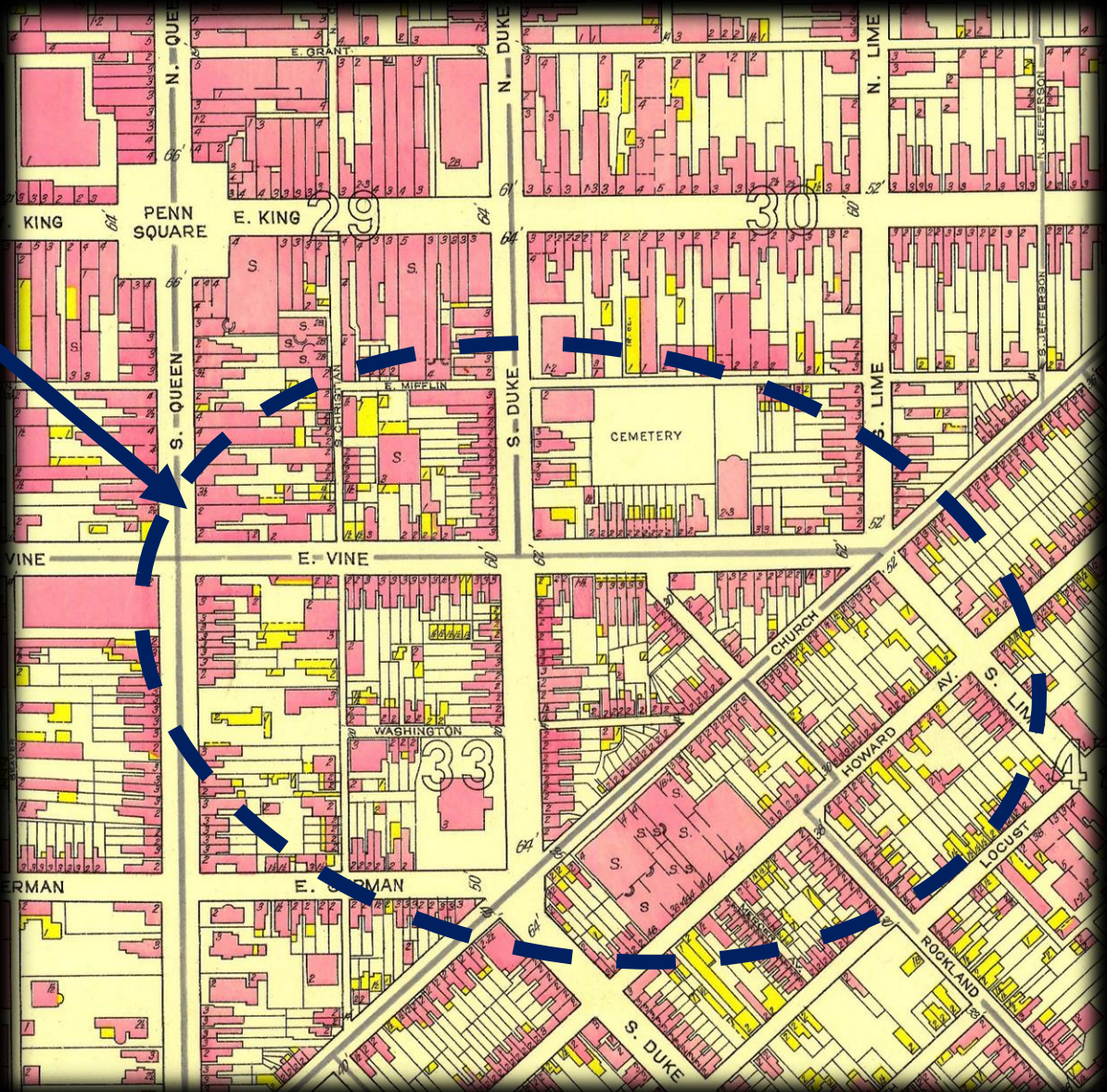
John J. Snyder,  
Historic Preservation Trust  
of Lancaster County





# Old Town — a neighborhood preservation initiative, 1970s & 80s

Thaddeus Stevens &  
Lydia Hamilton Smith  
Home & Office,  
45 & 47 S. Queen St.





45-47-49 South Queen St. & 21-23 East Vine St.



**1983 - High Real Estate sells these properties to Lancaster III, a New Jersey limited partnership**



**Seeking tax credits or other incentives,  
Lancaster III conveys conservation easements to  
Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County**



# Intelligencer Journal



Cloudy, high 50

Details Back Page

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201st year - No. 179

★

LANCASTER, PA., THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1995

Home Delivered  
\$2.40 a week

40 cents

1995



Intelligencer Journal photo by Suzanne Wenger

## Bon-Ton in downtown to shut doors March 4

### Financial losses cited; York chain plans study on future of building

Paul Bomberger  
Intelligencer Journal Staff

As expected, Bon-Ton Stores Inc. of York confirmed Wednesday that the Bon-Ton department store in downtown Lancaster will close March 4 due to mounting financial losses the past three years.

Bon-Ton acquired the city retail landmark and a second store at Park City Center in February 1992 from Watt & Shand Inc. The Shand family had made the 98-year-old city store a vital part of the downtown business district.

However, the 108,000-square-foot downtown store has been a white elephant from the day Bon-Ton purchased it because profits were thin. That was a shame since the building is an attractive structure.

The York retailer remodeled and changed the merchandise mix in the store to attract more shoppers, but in the end nothing was enough to generate store profits.

Michael L. Gleim, Bon-Ton's senior

executive vice president, said the retailer kept trying to revive the Lancaster city store because "we knew how important the store was for the community."

"We wanted to give it our best shot," Gleim said, explaining that the company probably should have considered closing the store a year ago, but Bon-Ton decided to change the merchandise one more time to turn things around. "It didn't work."

Bon-Ton spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on physical improvements to the four-story building and it lost more than \$1 million annually before taxes for three straight years, he said.

Since Bon-Ton purchased the store at King and Queen streets, store sales plummeted 46 percent.

"Unfortunately, Lancaster is not immune from the trend which has hit so many cities over the past 10 years — the tremendous migration of consumers and businesses to the suburbs," said Bon-Ton Chairman M. Thomas "Tim" Grumbacher said. "We feel that we, though the dedication of our people, have given this store our best efforts, but

“We wanted to give it our best shot. It didn't work.”  
Michael L. Gleim  
Bon-Ton executive”

simply could not sustain the losses any longer."

The store closing still leaves the York chain with 69 stores in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and West Virginia.

Bon-Ton officials said they will try to transfer as many of the city store's 173 employees as they can to other stores. Employees who aren't retained will be offered job placement assistance and severance pay and eligible workers will receive severance pay.

The historic building on Penn Square will not be listed for sale, Gleim said, until a study is completed to identify its best future uses. Bon-Ton will keep the lights on inside the building after the store is closed until work begins to redevelop it. The front window display cases

More BON-TON on A-5

## Other cities rebounded after losing big stores

John P. Lines  
Intelligencer Journal Staff

Despite the pending loss of its last major department store, LancasterCi-

also proposed by the mayor as options, considering the county's commissioners were opposed to a locally sponsored community college. Bon-Ton bought the former Watt & Shand store in 1992.

David B. Schneider, executive direc-

## Leaders react with regret, determination

Alan Walsh  
Intelligencer Journal Staff

Lancaster government and

1995-  
Original town  
plan  
eligible for  
National  
Register of  
Historic  
Places

# THE HISTORIC CITY OF LANCASTER

## A REPORT ON ITS HISTORIC RESOURCES



**Historic Preservation Trust**

of Lancaster County

123 North Prince Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

Phone: (717) 291-5861

City of Lancaster  
Department of Housing and Community Development

June 1995



# Historic City of Lancaster – View east



**Original 4-sq. mile town plan, circa 1730, largely intact**

August 1999 Penn Square Partners  
\$75 million convention center/hotel plan.



Stevens, Kleiss and Smith Buildings at  
south end of block not included in plans



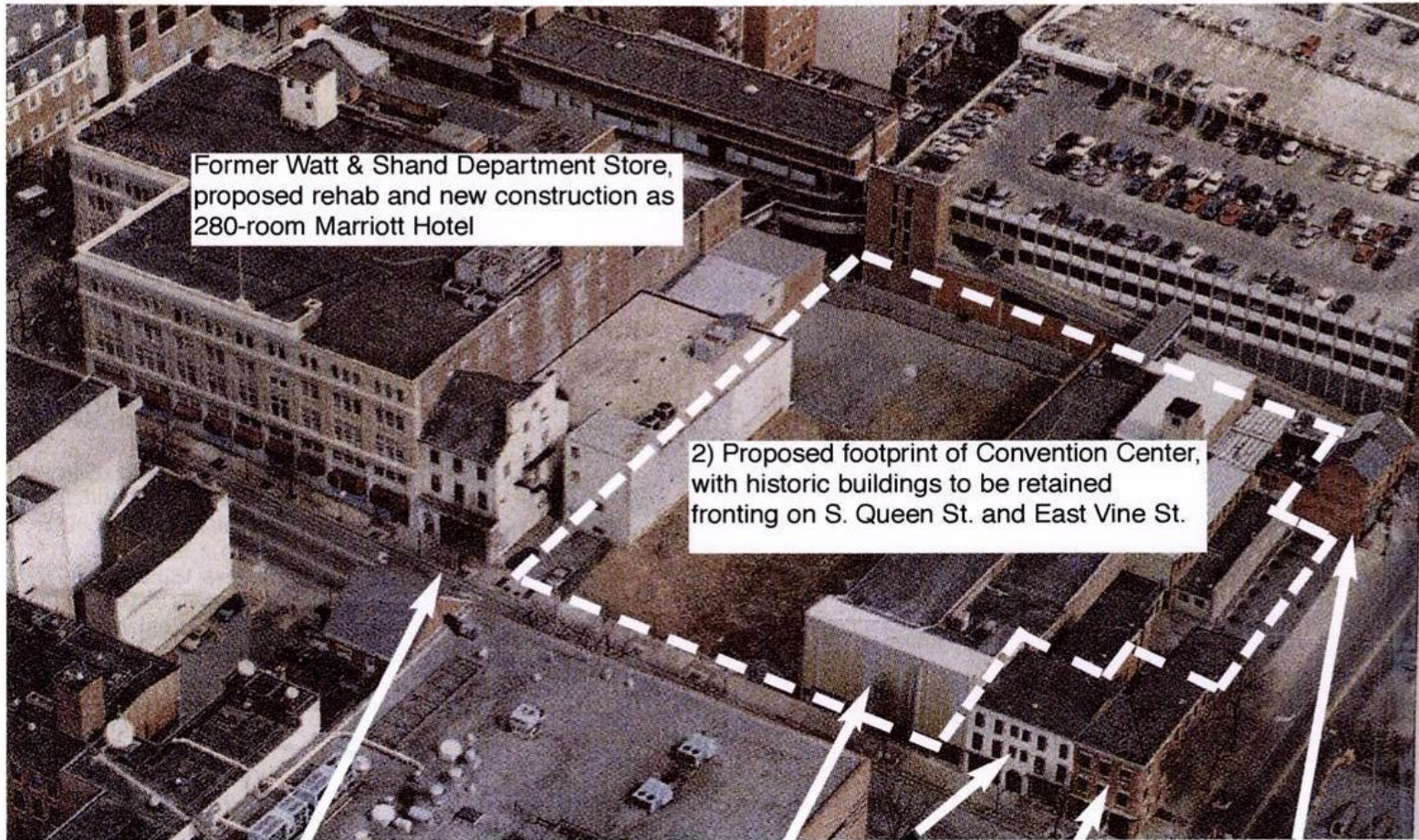
# Proposed Developments in the City of Lancaster, PA, USA

1) Thaddeus Stevens/Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

2) Lancaster County Convention Center

3) Marriott Hotel

*August 1999*



Former Watt & Shand Department Store,  
proposed rehab and new construction as  
280-room Marriott Hotel

2) Proposed footprint of Convention Center,  
with historic buildings to be retained  
fronting on S. Queen St. and East Vine St.

Historic Montgomery House.  
to be retained & preserved by  
Penn Square Partners

Oblender's: Kleiss Tavern  
1) Stevens/Smith House  
To be retained & preserved  
by Historic Pres. Trust

Lydia Hamilton Smith Houses  
To be retained in part by  
Convention Center Authority



Historic  
Preservation  
Trust  
of Lancaster County



Schner-Ellicott-von Hess House  
123 North Prince Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603  
717-291-5861 Fax 291-2251

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan R. Musselman  
*President*  
John Blowers  
George M. Bookman, Jr.  
*Vice-Presidents*  
Gary A. Glass  
*Treasurer*  
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Thomas J. Johnson, Jr.  
James W. Kendall  
Ann Krivinsger  
Jeffrey N. Lefever  
Patricia Levin  
Sidney P. Marland III  
Margaret E. Montetrom

December 21, 1999

Mr. James Pickard  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Lancaster County Convention Center Authority  
Post Office Box 1622  
Lancaster, PA 17608-1622

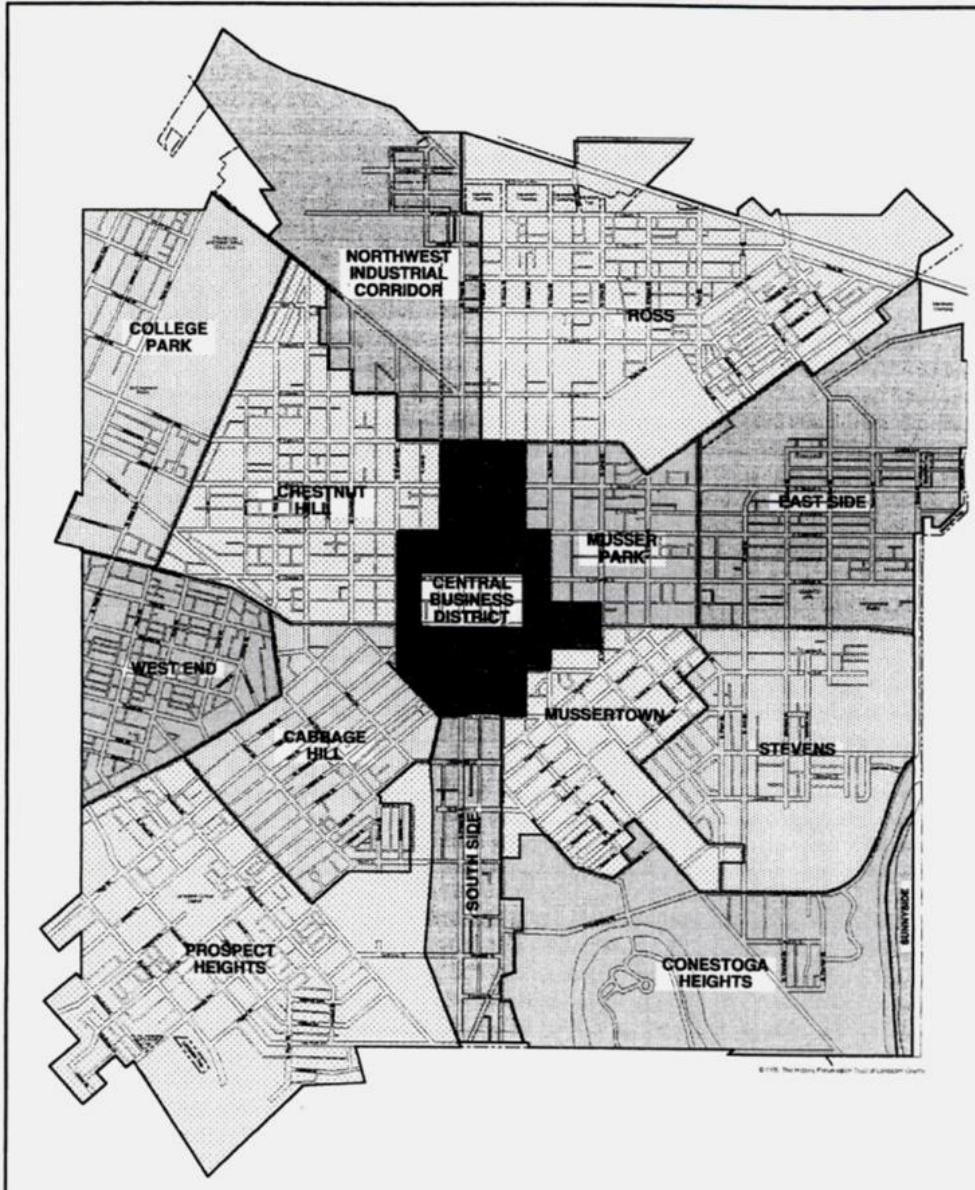
Dear Mr. Pickard:

SUBJECT: Penn Square Center Planning, Design and Easement Issues

Thanks to you and everyone involved in efforts to move forward with the rehabilitation of the Watt & Shand Building and the overall Penn Square Center project. As we told the County Commissioners in our letter of support for the hotel tax and the establishment of the Convention Center Authority, Penn Square Center is crucial to the positive future of the City and the entire County.



## Historic Areas of Lancaster City



2000

One of the largest districts listed in the National Register

Approximately 13,000 properties contribute to City's historic character

June 2000

Community Design Forum

sponsored by Historic Preservation Trust

Topic:

Convention Center & historic properties

HPT, LCCCA and Penn Square Partners  
participate



Over 100 business and civic reps. attend

Donovan Rypkema keynote speaker

Wide support for preserving historic buildings,  
including Thaddeus Stevens home & office

# Convention site purchase imminent

## Sale final Thursday; early 2001 razing for Queen/Vine buildings

by Bernard Harris  
New Era Staff Writer 9-13-00 C-18  
bharris@lnpnews.com

The Lancaster County Convention Center Authority is locking into its location this week.

Representatives of the authority's board are expected to complete the purchase of the four N.P.A. Properties buildings at the northeast corner of South Queen and East Vine streets on Thursday for \$539,900.

The authority earlier closed on the Oblender's furniture store, which continues to oper-

and 21 and 23 E. Vine St. — are virtually empty, Pickard said. Two tenants, serving as custodians for the properties, continue to live at 23 E. Vine St., he said. They will vacate Thursday, he added.

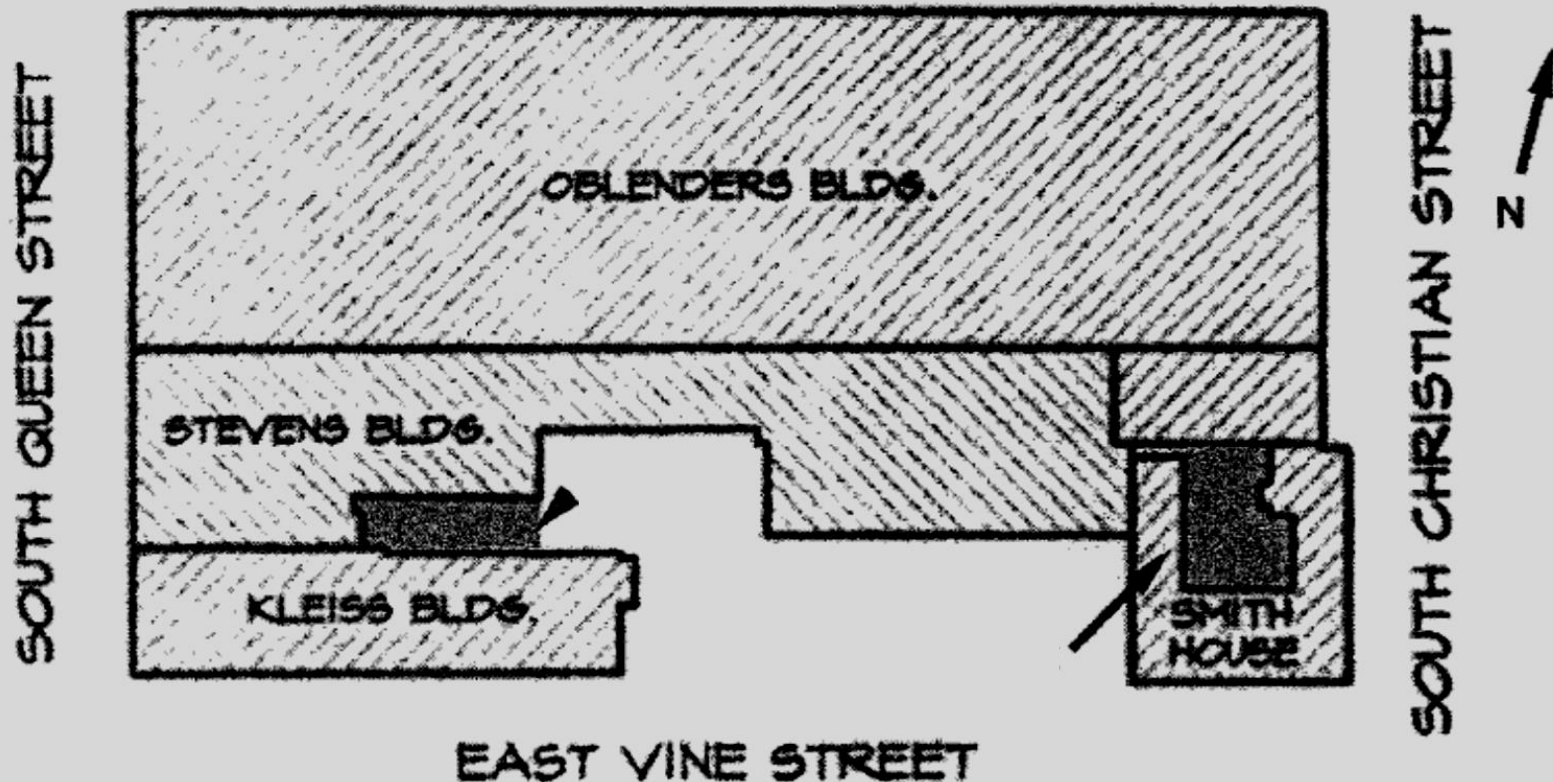
Pickard said the authority will start the process of applying for the permits needed to demolish the buildings immediately. He hopes to start razing the structures by the first of the year.

The adjacent Oblender's building, at 37-43 S. Queen St., will also be razed, he said.

Pickard said empty buildings can attract vandals and squatters and become a target for fires.

"That becomes our property tomorrow, and anything negative that happens there reflects on us," he told the other board members.

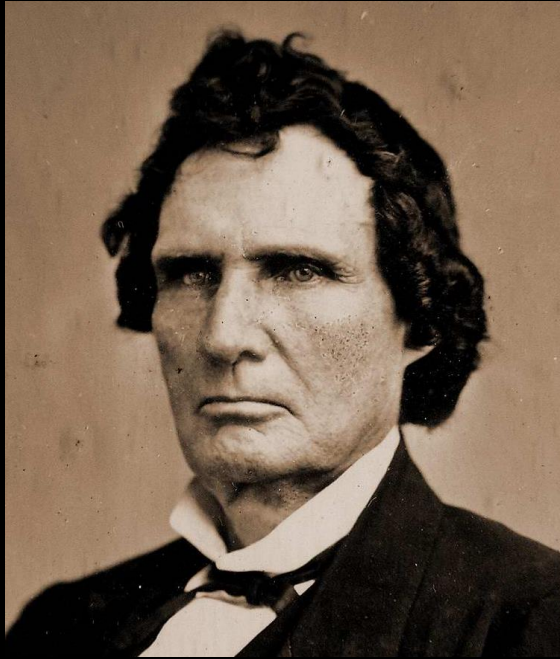
The Oblender's store will continue to operate in its longtime home for nearly three months. Although the authority purchased the building for \$675,000 in July, the store remains open while its owners search for another location.







# A Thaddeus Stevens-Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site?



Congressman  
Thaddeus Stevens

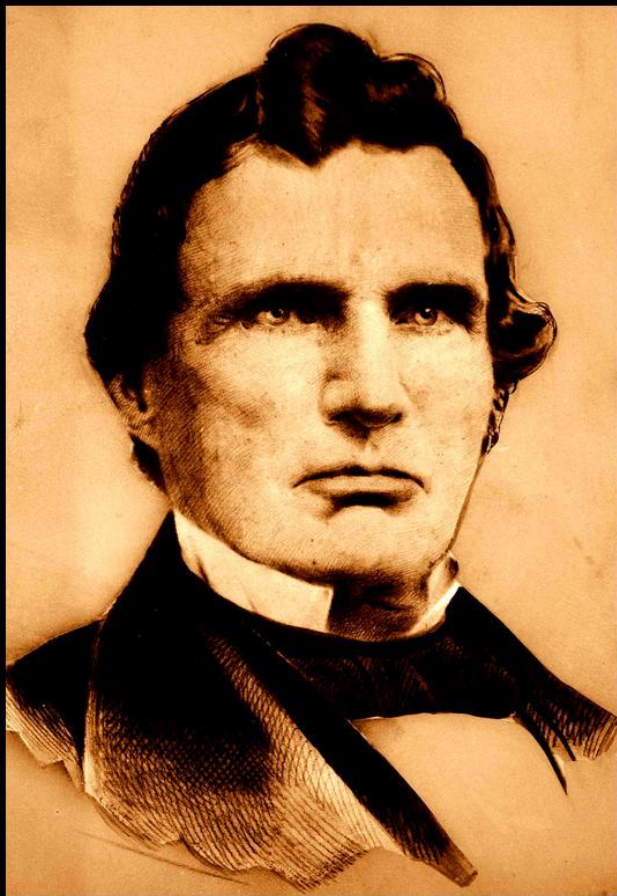
The challenge:

Stevens  
&  
Smith  
Who?



Lydia Hamilton  
Smith





# THADDEUS STEVENS

*'THE OLD COMMONER'*

**Born April 4, 1792, Danville, Vermont**

**Teacher, attorney, abolitionist**

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

**Champion of free public education**

**Industrialist & newspaper publisher**

**United States Congress—civil rights leader**

**Underground Railroad activist**

**Died August 11, 1868, Washington, D.C.**

*'Stevens in his prime....'*

Originally published in Historical  
Papers and Addresses of the  
Lancaster County Historical Society,  
37 (1933): 21-35.

# LYDIA HAMILTON SMITH

**Born February 14, 1815  
Russell's Tavern, near Gettysburg**

**Married Jacob Smith, circa 1835;  
Two sons: William & Isaac**

**Confidante and property manager  
for Thaddeus Stevens, 1844-68**

**Acquired her Lancaster home, 1860**

**Acquired D.C. boarding house, c.1870**

**Died February 14, 1884, Washington**

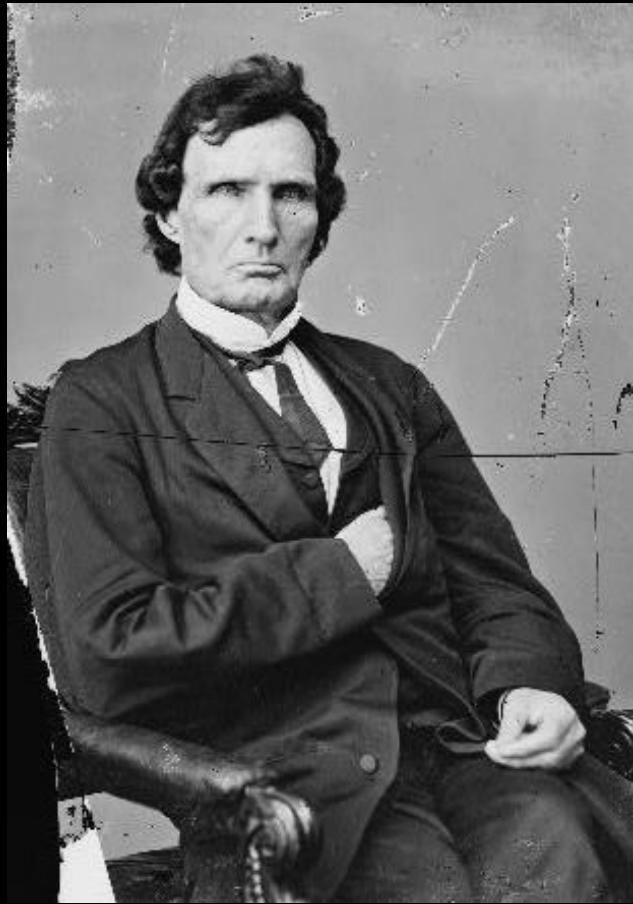
**Buried, St. Saint Mary Cemetery**



*'...a remarkably intelligent woman, of generous disposition, was well and favorably known.'*

**Obituary, *Evening Star*, Washington D.C.  
14 February 1884.**

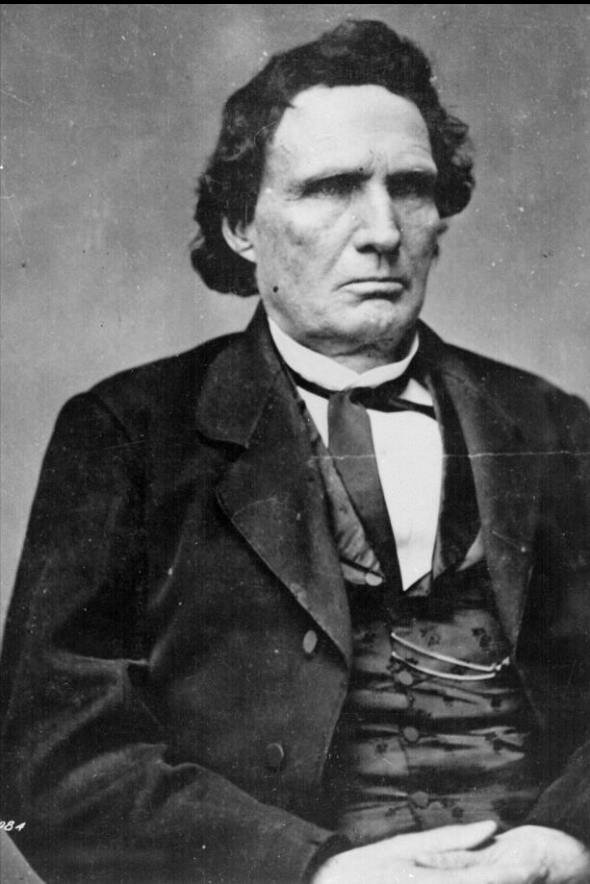




In the US Congress,  
Stevens' powerful influence  
molds the great  
civil rights Amendments to  
the Constitution, establishing  
the Second American  
Revolution:

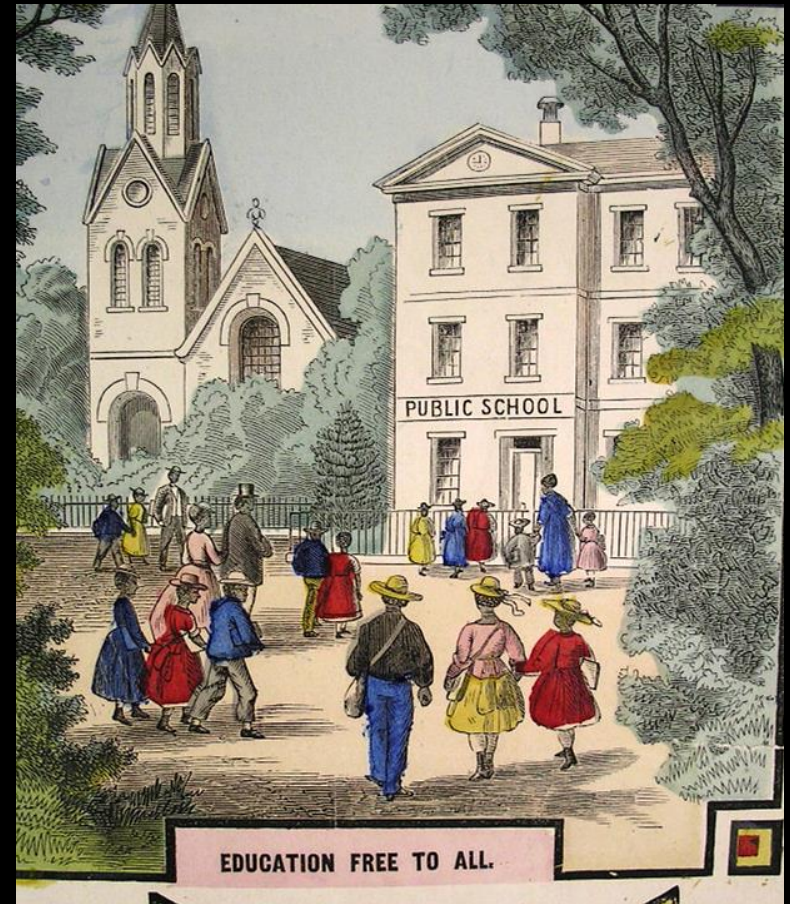
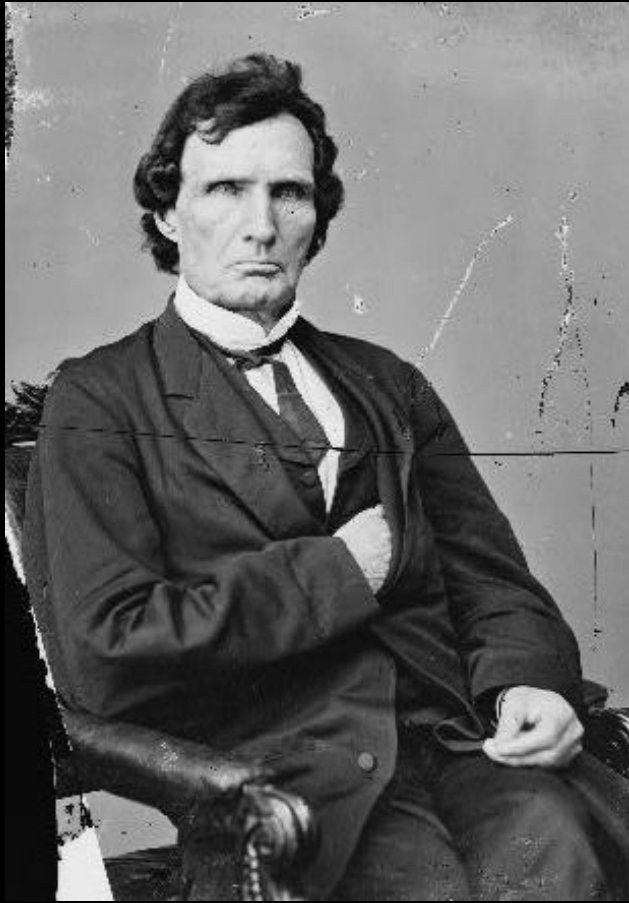
13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

# Stevens as Underground Railroad agent



- Harbored freedom seekers at his Lancaster home, 1840s
- His Caledonia Iron Works a place of work & refuge for the formerly enslaved
- Paid anti-slavery spies 1840s & 50s
- Archeological dig adds to a solid hypothesis, 2002-2003





On his death bed, Stevens says his efforts to maintain free public education in Pennsylvania was his greatest accomplishment



Lydia Hamilton Smith

1815-1884



Franklin & Marshall College students  
at Smith's Vine Street properties, December, 2003

Property owner in Lancaster, circa 1860

Acquired Stevens' property in 1871.

Boarding homes in Philadelphia and Washington,  
D.C., 1876-1880

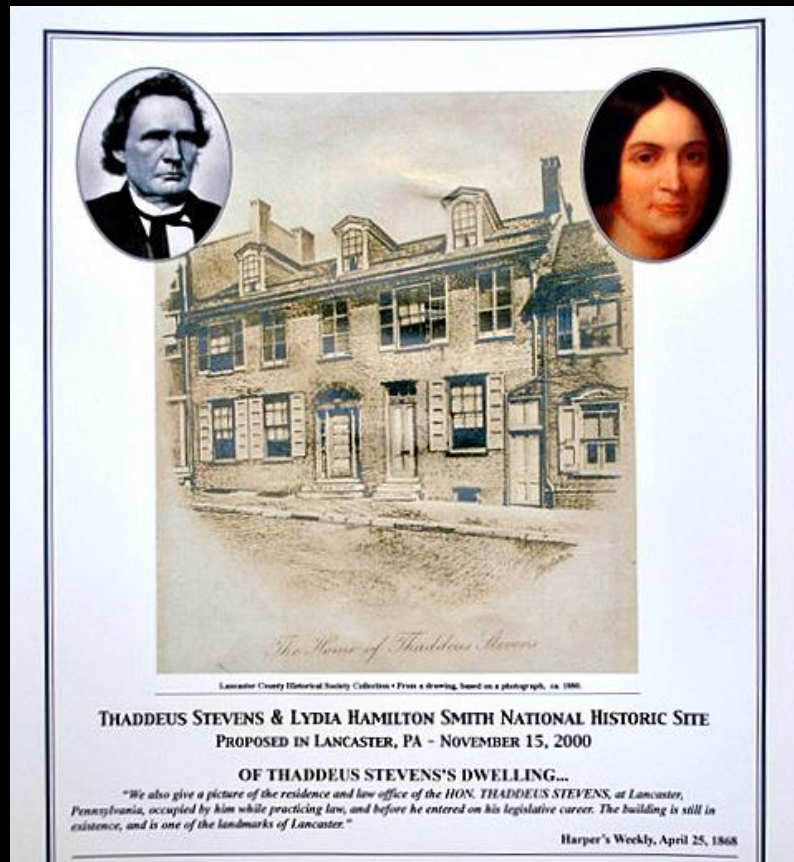




She gave extraordinary  
care to the ailing  
Stevens at the height of  
his political power,  
1860s

Lydia Hamilton Smith  
Portrait by  
Charles Bird King, c. 1845

# January 2001



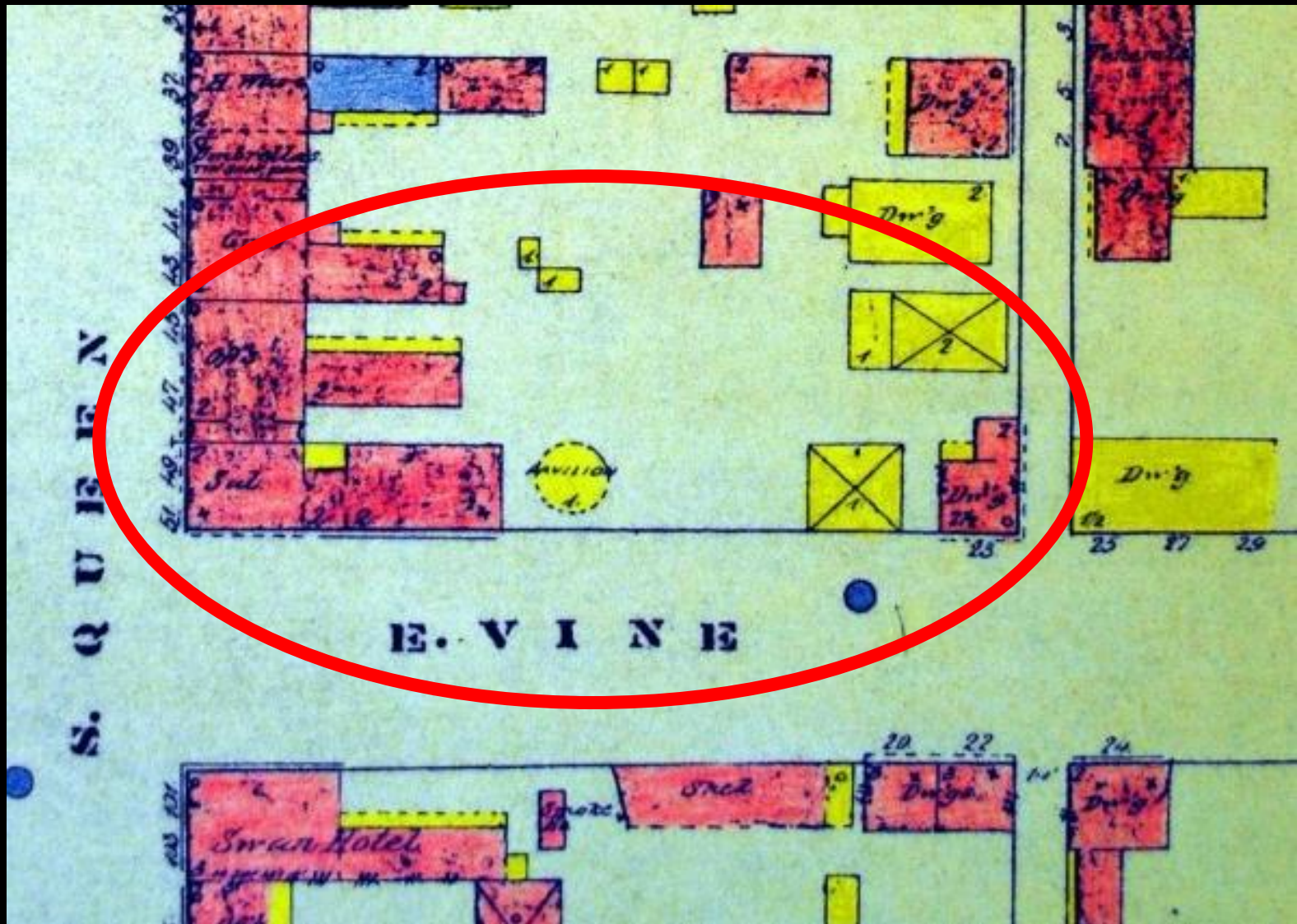
Proposes concept plan for  
National Historic Landmark

Education & interpretive center

Stevens & Smith as  
civil rights leaders &  
Underground Railroad activists



# Stevens & Smith properties, 1873



# Riddle of the cisterns

Archeological dig sponsored by Historic Preservation Trust

Rear courtyard, Stevens & Smith House

Led by James Delle, Ph.D. and Mary Ann Levine, Ph.D.





Uncovering cisterns



# Cistern interior east wall



Opened

December, 2002





An emergency hiding place to protect freedom seekers from bounty hunters in the 1850s?




# Over 10,000 artifacts recovered & stored at F&M College





# *Wanted!* O.C. Kelly

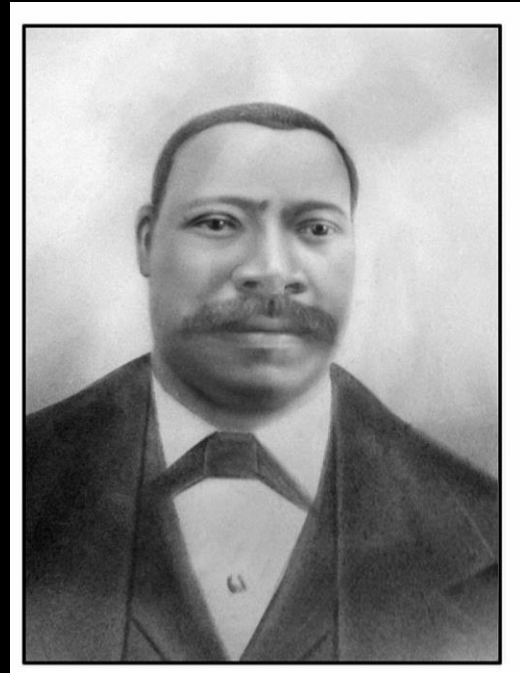
 \$500 REWARD will be given for the delivery in Baltimore or Howard District Jail, or \$200 for either, of the following described NEGRO BOYS, who left the Camp Meeting at Hobbs' School House, Howard District, on Sunday evening, 20th instant:

HEN, a tall Black Boy, about 20 years of age.  
SAM, a tall Mulatto; impediment in speech; brother of Hen.

→ OLIVER KELLY, a stout, thick set Black, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high. Address Clarksville, Howard District.

WM. CLARK, or  
DR. WM. W. WATKINS.

2231



The Baltimore Sun, August 23, 1848

# THADDEUS STEVENS HOME & LAW OFFICE

45-47 SOUTH QUEEN STREET  
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

*"There has no better friend in the state than  
the lawyer...the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens..."*

*Underground Railroad conductor Daniel Gibbons, Bird-In-Hand, PA,  
to a group of freedom seekers assisted by Stevens, August, 1848.*

**Application to National Park Service  
Underground Railroad Network to Freedom**

Submitted on behalf of  
Lancaster County Convention Center Authority

And

LancasterHistory.org

Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland

In Partnership with

Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau  
January 2011

Prepared by Randolph J. Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA

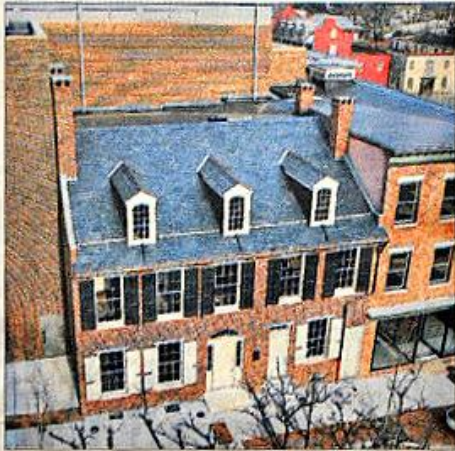


*Oliver Cromwell Gibson*



# Historical ties proven

*Stevens home was on Underground Railroad*



Suzette Wenger / Staff

The former home of Thaddeus Stevens, at 45 S. Queen St., is shown with Stevens' law office on South Queen Street. Stevens' home and office were recognized this week by the National Park Service as official sites on the Underground Railroad.

4-8-11

BY BERNARD HARRIS  
Staff Writer

Oliver Cromwell Kelly and his companions didn't have a lot of information to work with when they reached Lancaster County in 1848.

Kelly, who was later known as O.C. Gilbert, and his companions dropped to their knees after crossing the Susquehanna River, thinking they had reached Canada.

The slaves, who had run away from a regional camp



The home of Thaddeus Stevens, circa 1870.

was a friend to the slaves." Bernard Harris / Lancaster

Stevens Home & Office becomes Site - National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom



Research & documentation supported by  
LancasterHistory, LCCCA,  
Discover Lancaster

April, 2011



# LANCASTER NEW ERA

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5th Year No. 38,863

★

LANCASTER, PA., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001

Home Delivered 40¢ Newsstand 50¢

## Historic compromise

**Convention center to be built around Stevens home; Smith house to be moved across street; deal finally ends dispute over controversial downtown site**



NEW ERA THURSDAY,  
JUNE 14, 2001

### EDITORIAL

## Authority, Historic Trust forge model compromise

Breathe a sigh of relief: common sense has prevailed.

The compromise hammered out by Convention Center and Historic Preservation Trust leaders to preserve the homes of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Smith at Queen and Vine streets represents an enormously significant achievement for this community.

The two groups, along with the Redevelopment Authority, have forged a plan that will restore these two

Those moves go far to assuring that Lancaster's new convention center fits into the mixed colonial and Victorian streetscape that has been and should continue to be one of the primary attractions of visitors to our city.

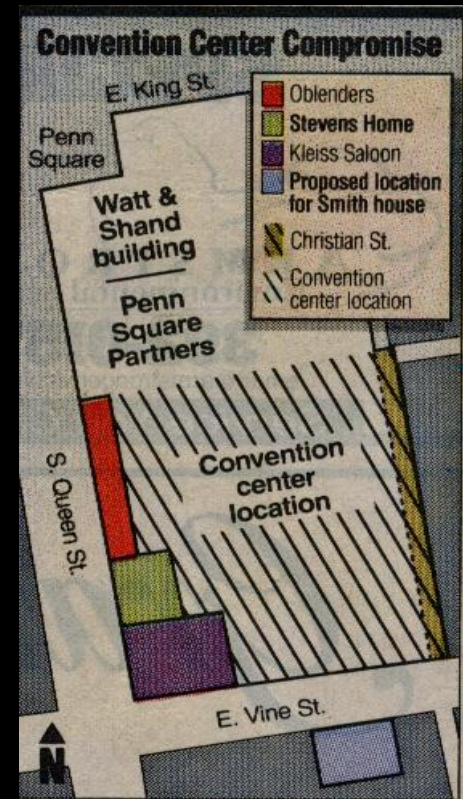
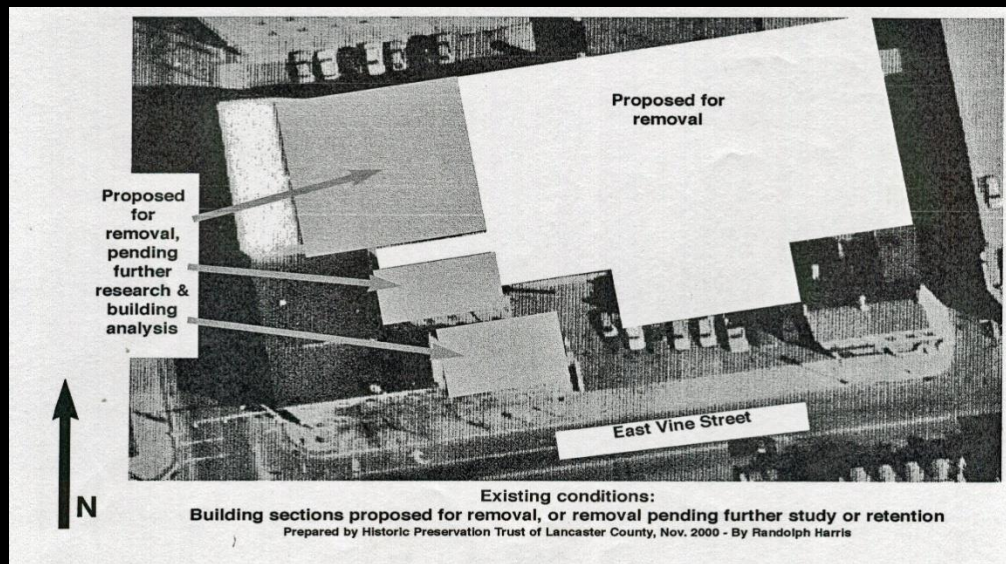
For bringing the two sides to common ground, Lancaster owes thanks to former County Commissioner Terry L. Kauffman and state Sen. Gibson Armstrong.

Armstrong has been a guiding light



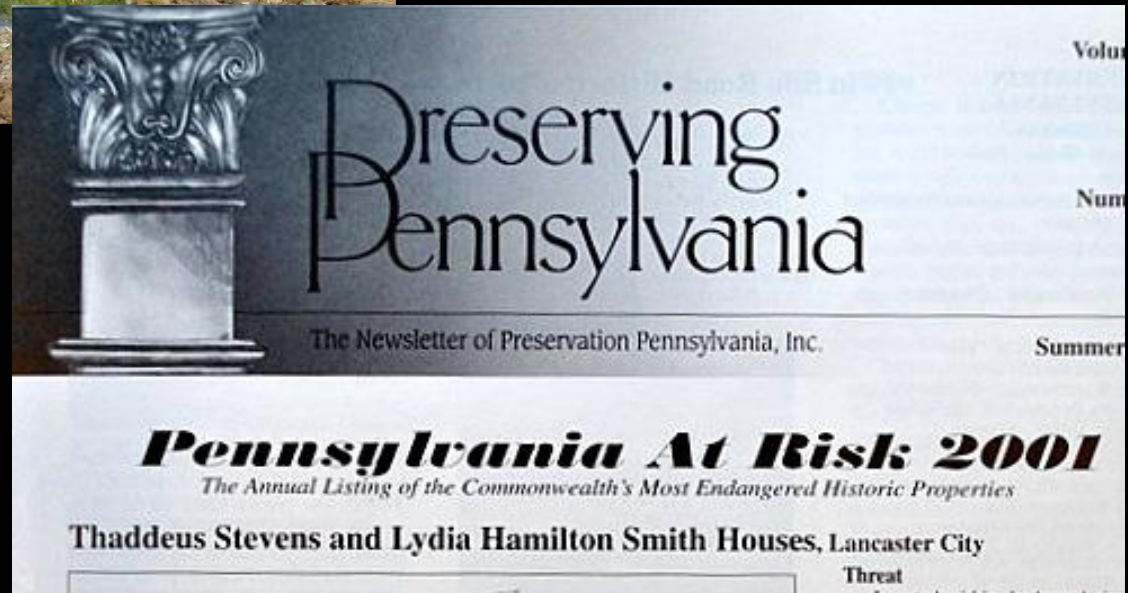
# Late 2001 plan

Removes portions of existing structures  
but leaves building front sections intact



## Smith Buildings removal

# Rear portions of Stevens & Kleiss Buildings to be removed





# Support widespread for preservation plans

## Was Thaddeus Stevens' home used as an underground railroad station?



**JACK BRUBAKER**

The Scribbler  
1-16-01

*Scribbler's note:* This is the second of two columns discussing local operations of the underground railroad. This column covers possible activities in the home of Thaddeus Stevens and neighboring buildings in downtown Lancaster.

"We have no documentation. It's all speculation. But we know these people were heavily involved in these events."

Randy Harris, executive director of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, is talking about possible connections between underground railroad operations in Lancaster County before the Civil War and the buildings at South Queen and Vine streets that he wants to make into a national landmark.

Proof of a linkage would strengthen the case for preserving six buildings at the site. Harris has no proof. He does cite some intriguing speculation.

● Stevens wrote to Judge Jeremiah Brown in 1847 urging him to tell two black girls to flee slave catchers hot on their trail.

"There is a regular chain of agents and spies of the slaveholders in this and

all adjoining counties," Stevens wrote. "I have a spy on the spies and thus ascertain the facts. All this, however, must remain secret or we will lose all the advantages we now have."

"These are the eighth set of slaves I have warned within a week."

Nothing in this note suggests that Stevens actually sheltered slaves in his house or the neighboring home of his housekeeper and confidante, Lydia Smith. The fact that Stevens had warned eight sets of slaves in one week, however, shows how involved he was in details of liberation.

● Stevens on the spies: "I have a spy on the spies and thus ascertain the facts. All this, however, must remain secret or we will lose all the advantages we now have."

W. Frank the Lancaster dressed the Society on Stevens." / Gorrecht m ment of the H. Rauch.

Rauch, al ently posed i in this area Rauch to sp report to him

Rauch n agent role i Lancasterian one occasio him from b Street.

According to Gorrecht, Rauch communicated with Stevens by way of the grocery store of Christopher Dice. Dice's store was just north of Stevens' house. Until recently, that building housed Oblender's Furniture Store.

Anna Bush, Dice's daughter, told Gorrecht that Rauch often visited her father's store. She believed that because the spy could not call on Stevens at his home without raising suspicion, he passed information to Stevens through Dice at the store.

Lydia Smith's sons, Harris believes, in large part because the company's first engine house was "an old barn at the foot of Thaddeus Stevens' home."

"The boisterous behavior of the boys at fires became notorious," reported Goodman, "and they were regarded in the eyes of the public as a nuisance, and the vigilance of the constabulary was often taxed to its utmost in restraining them from going to fires."

If the original purpose of this company was not really fighting fires, Harris wonders, what was it? "If you're build-apparatus," he could slip

or designed ves around

ie Southern e corner of a Stevens ided cover to the Civil Kleiss Sa might have it wagons. Trust has is slim re- re is. If so, settle for y plotting ags, rather railroad op-

memorializ- ing these n Stevens' tures. The

accomplishments of one of America's most ardent abolitionists do not require further elaboration.



**Southern Market Hotel**

HARRY TODD, Prop.

South Queen & Vine Sts.

LANCASTER, PA.

Hotel accommodations up to date. Seating for 100 board of horses.

This postcard view of the Southern Market Hotel was printed about 1914-1916, according to its owner, Jim Ward of Kleinfeltersville. Previous to its use as a hotel, the building housed the Kleiss Saloon. The structure is located at the corner of South Queen and Vine streets, next to Thaddeus Stevens' residence.

A-8

MONDAY,  
NEW ERA JANUARY 8, 2001

### EDITORIALS

## Stevens' home should be landmark of national value

Lancasterians should consider the proposal to create a historic complex of buildings surrounding Thaddeus Stevens' home at Queen and Vine streets as a substantial addition to the city's revitalization efforts.

The plan to occupy most of that block with a convention center, attached to a quality hotel anchored by the Watt & Shand building, could only be enhanced by giving visitors something worth seeing after they leave the convention center.

And this would not be just another place to see. As outlined by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, a site devoted to telling the story of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith, developed with care, could become a major national attraction.

neatly with the proposal by Lancaster and York County planners to establish a regional heritage area. Central elements of the heritage area concept are orientation centers in Lancaster and York cities.

The Stevens-Smith proposal also includes a training center for the hospitality industry and/or students interested in building restoration. These possibilities should appeal to those who believe historical sites should be connected with practical projects.

All or even a skeleton of the total concept would cost a small fortune to create. The Lancaster County Convention Center Authority says it will not pay for anything and, in fact, Authority officials have said they would like to raze part or all of the struc-

August 2001





2004

Architects  
Cooper Carry  
incorporate  
Stevens & Smith  
Historic Site  
into convention  
center plans.



# 2004-2005

# Exhibit hall

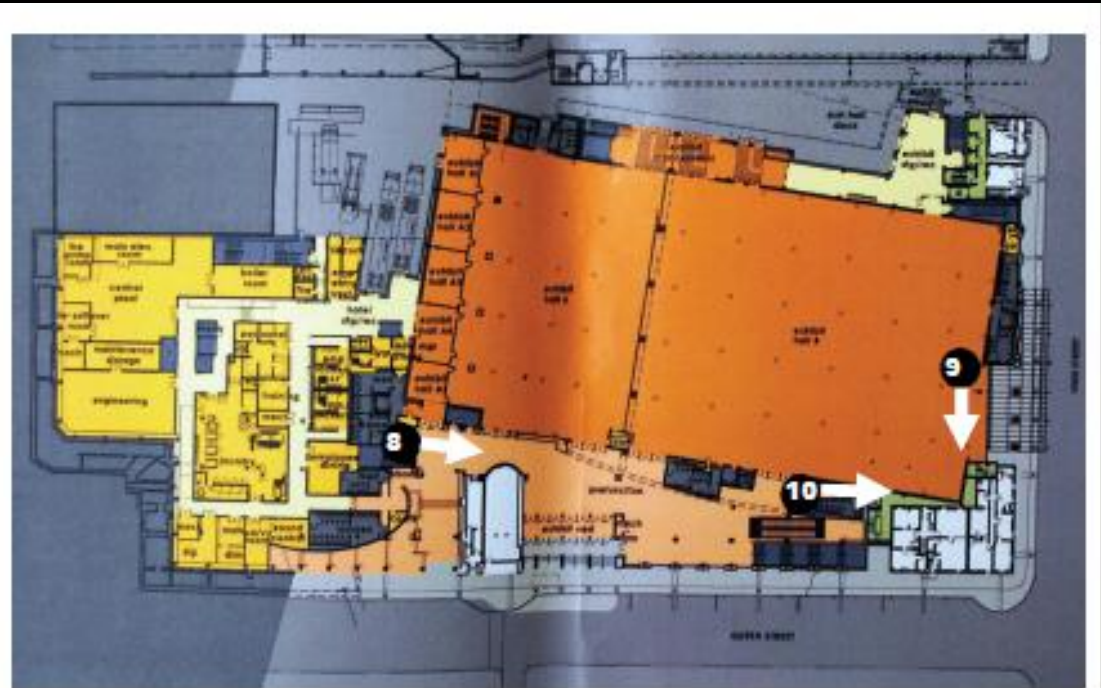
# accommodates

# Stevens & Smith

# Buildings, cisterns &

# historic

# Montgomery House



*Penn Square Center Marriott Hotel and Lancaster County  
Convention Center, Lancaster, PA.  
Composite Plan-Exhibit Hall Level, 1/10/2005  
Cooper Carry Architects, Atlanta, GA.*





January 2006

## American History Workshop seminar in NYC



Eric Foner, Columbia University professor, author & preeminent authority on Reconstruction

Defines Stevens and Smith as “Founders of the Second American Republic” ... coalescing of states into a unified nation in wake of Civil War, ending of slavery, introduction of equality under the law.





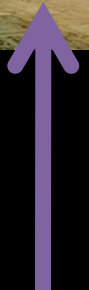
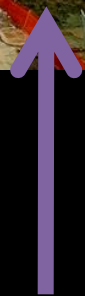
2007





# Site of Lancaster County Convention Center & Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

November 2007



Lydia Smith  
Houses

Thaddeus Stevens House and  
Law Office

Montgomery  
House

Watt &  
Shand











# Phase one completion-

## Convention Center, Hotel opening



June-October 2009







Montgomery House, 1802, South Queen Street

**AWARDS!**



# LancasterHistory to run Stevens site

12-17-10

■ **The organization that runs Wheatland will step in to develop the Stevens/Smith historic site.**

BY BERNARD HARRIS  
Staff Writer

For more than a year, the Stevens/Smith historic site has been stuck.

It has been that long since work was completed on the facades at South Queen and East Vine streets.

And fundraising for the \$9 million museum has struggled to get past the \$741,255 owed in construction costs to the Lancaster County Convention Center Authority.

On Thursday, a unanimous vote of the authority board capped months of behind-the-scenes work and promises to end the impasse and move the project forward.

In what board member Sharron Nelson called a true "win-win" for everyone, LancasterHistory.org, the organization that operates President James Buchanan's Wheatland, stepped in to lease the historic properties and develop the museum.

The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, the architectural preservation organization that worked to save the properties from the wrecking ball and developed the initial museum plans, will



Tom Ryan

Please see **STEVENS**, page A5

LancasterHistory  
assumes lease for  
historic properties.





The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York  
Queens, New York – Group tour, 2019





Middle School students – School District of Lancaster–2019



“Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact.”

Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith  
(1908-2006)

Quoted by League of Historic American Theatres,  
Baltimore, MD, 2006











Lancaster History.org















# Thaddeus Stevens

## THE GREAT COMMONER

**THADDEUS STEVENS (1792-1868)** is today recognized as one of the most powerful representatives in the United States Congress both during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. A businessman with several iron furnaces, he dedicated himself to the law through his work as an attorney, Pennsylvania legislator, and United States Congressman. As a political figure, Stevens fought for the abolition of slavery and defended free public education.

Stevens was born with a clubfoot, and he faced discrimination throughout his life. Some historians believe his disability allowed him to sympathize with other Americans who faced discrimination. Others argue Stevens transformed into a passionate opponent of slavery after he relocated to Pennsylvania and tried a legal case that would change the course of his life.

In 1815, he moved to York, Pennsylvania where he taught at York Academy and studied law. He opened his own law practice in Gettysburg the following year. An 1801 court case involving a runaway slave, *Burder v. DeKlopper*, transformed his perspective on slavery. Charity Easter asserted freedom for herself and her children under the emancipation laws of 1780 and 1788. Stevens, arguing the side of the slave owner, contended that Charity and her two children did not reside continuously in Pennsylvania for more than six months. The court sided with Stevens and returned Charity and her children to enslavement. Stevens immediately regretted his successful argument in the case, and he began taking action against slavery thereafter.

Stevens developed his political skills in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives as a member of the Anti-Masonic Party between 1820 and 1824. As a state legislator, he fought for free public education and the abolition of slavery. Stevens saw public education as a guarantor of social mobility and strongly supported the Free Public School Act of 1834 in the Pennsylvania Legislature. Stevens was credited with helping to save the school system from its opposition, and he later declared it as his life's "crowning utility."

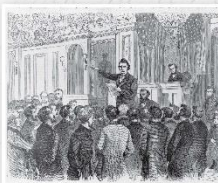
Lebanese elected Stevens as their representative to the United States Congress as a Whig (1849-1853) and a Republican (1853-1868). Stevens chaired the House Committee on Ways and Means during the Civil War, which allowed him to be a financier of the Union army. He placed pressure on President Abraham Lincoln to emancipate enslaved people, which he did in 1863.



Thaddeus Stevens, 1840s.  
Source: Wikimedia Commons. Digitized by the University of Pennsylvania.



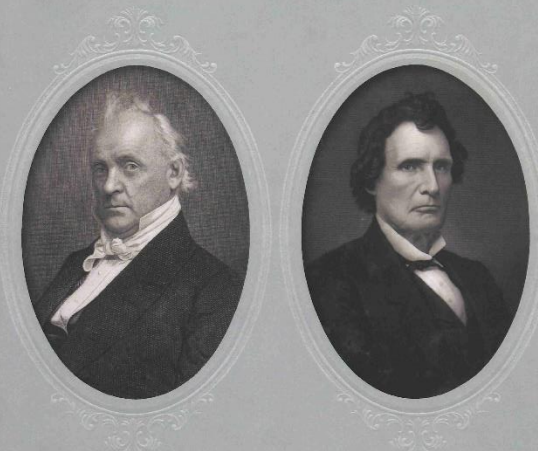
Thaddeus Stevens' Home and Law Office.  
Source: The National Archives, 1860s.



Stevens, the House Floor, 1860s.  
Source: The National Archives, 1860s.

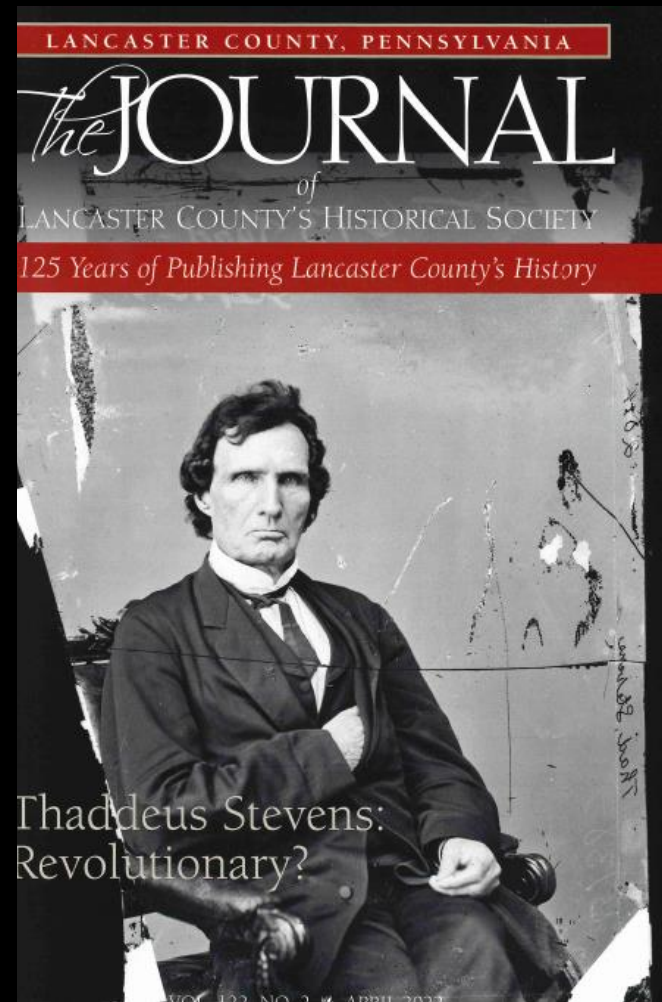
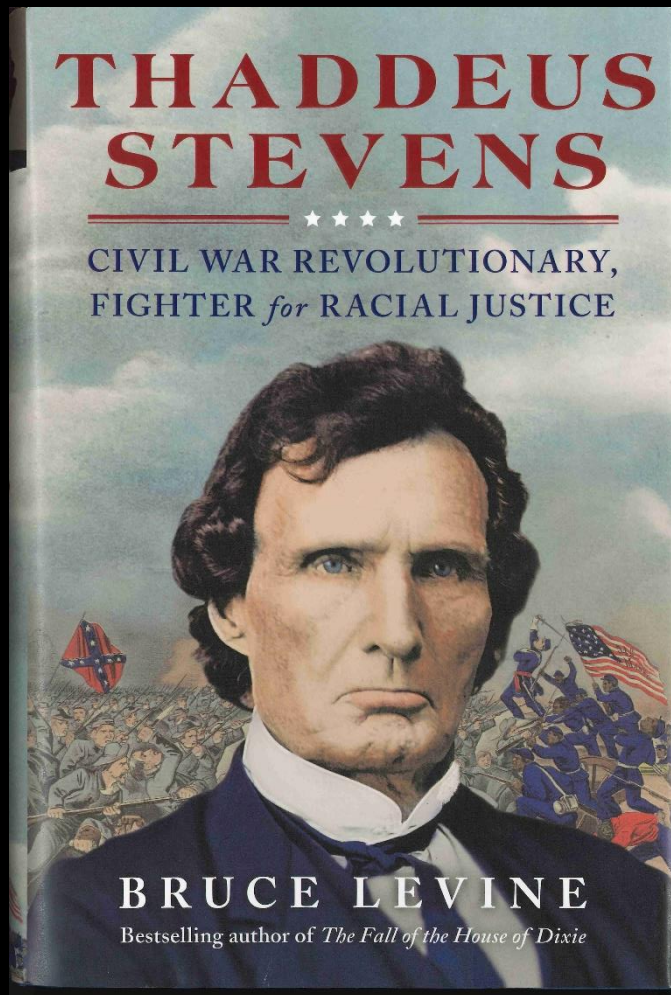
# THE WORLDS OF JAMES BUCHANAN AND THADDEUS STEVENS

PLACE, PERSONALITY, AND POLITICS  
IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA



EDITED BY  
MICHAEL J. BIRKNER, RANDALL M. MILLER,  
AND JOHN W. QUIST









# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment







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- Spencer Crew, Ph.D. (Nat'l Museum of African American History and Culture; GMU)
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- Page Talbott, Ph. D., (Drexel University, Independent Museum Consultant)
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- Kip Van Blarcom, (Lancaster County Planning Department)
- Philip D. Zimmerman, Ph. D. (Independent Consultant)





























16 April 1946. At 11:00 hours  
in this area the first American tank to land fighting  
with armor in the height of the battle. The tank  
that entered 1946 (the tank) was killed or wounded  
there in just a few minutes of fighting. The tank  
charge had broken the German tank line but they  
were then forced back, with considerable casualties.

**Today**  
Archaeologists have found many items here. Tank  
armor parts, gas tank and spent oil barrels. All these  
are clear evidence of a desperate close range fight.









DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION  
FOR THESE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*The people made the Constitution and they can unmake it.  
It is the Creature of their will, and lives only by their will.*

Chief Justice John Marshall, 1821







Now is the appropriate  
time to **solve the greatest  
problem** ever submitted  
to civilized man.

---

Thaddeus Stevens, 1862

Values and Characteristics

**Abolition**

**Justice**

**Advocacy**

Authentic

Radical Accessibility

Dialogue

Inclusive

**Freedom**

Social

Relevant

Flexible

**Racial Equality**

Community

Immersive

**Democracy**

Discourse

**Balance**

Leadership

Education

**Gender Equality**

Radical Imagination

**Citizenship**

Transparency



## Interpretive Goals

**Promote awareness of the advocacy and contributions of Thaddeus Stevens** to 19th-century freedom struggles in the United States.

**Share the story of Lydia Hamilton Smith**, a free woman of color and household manager who was an influential force in Stevens' life and broke barriers through her entrepreneurial pursuits and commitment to her community.

**Broaden the public's understanding** of movements in the 1800s to abolish slavery, support racial equality, and achieve full citizenship and democracy in the United States.

**Interrogate the legacies** of slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction in ongoing struggles to support citizenship rights, racial equity, and justice for all Americans.

**Explore connections between past and present freedom struggles** and inspire visitors with the awareness that individuals can make a difference.

## Major Themes and Primary Topics

- **US Congressman Thaddeus Stevens**, who marshaled the power of words and transformed the law to support equality for all, especially in matters of race and education.
- **Lydia Hamilton Smith**, a hardworking and successful entrepreneur, household manager, abolitionist, and philanthropist in her own right as well as an essential force in Thaddeus Stevens' life.
- The many **networks of people** connected to movements for freedom in the 1800s, including enslaved people and freedom seekers, white and Black abolitionists, political and legal advocates, faith leaders, and supporters of the Underground Railroad.
- The history of **slavery and gradual emancipation in the North**, with a particular focus on Lancaster County and the state of Pennsylvania.
- **The Underground Railroad**—America's first interracial, religiously inspired, mass movement of civil disobedience and political networking, which became a key force in the abolitionist movement of the 1800s.
- The significance of key events connected to Stevens and Smith, including the **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** and the **Christiana Resistance**, that demonstrated escalating sectional tensions leading up to the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.
- **The Civil War and the unfinished revolution of Reconstruction**, particularly emphasizing Stevens' role in advocating for funding the Union army and the enlistment of Black soldiers; abolishing slavery; providing public education for all; promoting greater access to land and property ownership; advocating for Black male suffrage and political representation; and spearheading the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the US Constitution.
- The impact of **racial violence and terrorism and Jim Crow segregation laws and customs** in eroding many of Reconstruction's social, political, and economic gains for African Americans.
- **The Southeast neighborhood of Lancaster surrounding the historic site**—then and now.
- **Business and philanthropy**—both Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith pursued lucrative business ventures and offered generous support of others, including substantial bequests in their wills.



Stevens was a towering national figure. And this project will go a good distance toward restoring Stevens to the place where he should be as one of the most compelling and significant American political men of the 19th century whose ideas resonate today.

---

Fergus M. Bordewich, Independent Scholar, 2022

# IMLS –MUSEUMS EMPOWERED GRANT



Inclusive and Accessible Design

















Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy



For more information

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/about-sschd/>

