



Jackson Marine Sales

had already been sold to D. Wilbur Ranck in 1919, and after the Eastern Market Company officially dissolved, Ranck remodeled the building for use as an auto garage. At this point the front windows, doors and pilasters were removed to allow the introduction of large bronze framed plate glass storefront type windows. Bob Hess bought Eastern Market from Ranck in '27 to use as a Dodge car dealership until the 1960s. Visible

through the broad windows, Hess's auto show room was in the forefront of the building, cheerily illuminated at night. The building was then handed over to Jackson Marine whose boats replaced Hess's automobiles.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

In 1986, Eastern Market became the headquarters of the Housing Development Corporation, the largest developer and manager of affordable housing in south central Pennsylvania. By 2005, the Eastern Market building was too large a space for HDC and the organization traded office space with Tabor Community Services, who had grown out of their 439 East King location. Tabor transformed the front third of the Eastern Market building into three floors of offices for its hous-



Eastern Market's multi-cultural farmers market

ing and financial counseling services; the barrel-roofed market house is still used as a parking garage.

RETURNING TO EASTERN MARKET'S ROOTS

In the midst of the East King Improvement District revitalization, Tabor re-established a farmers market at the Eastern Market house. The revived Eastern Market debuted in spring 2006, with the goal to bring fresh food to Lancaster residents, stimulate small business opportunities, and create an open, multicultural atmosphere. The farmers market has helped the building re-capture its former role as a meeting

place where local agriculture thrives and residents have access to the necessity of safe, affordable fresh produce.

Eastern Market is a remnant of the time when agriculture was the major focal point of the area and one of a remaining

three out of the eight original markets where farmers brought their wares to sell. Located in Historic District, Eastern Market is now recognized in the National Register as a contributing building of historic significance.



Tabor Community Services



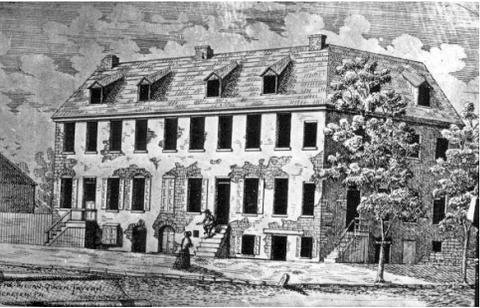
EASTERN MARKET

Now Home to Tabor's Offices and the Revived Farmers Market

308 East King Street

BEFORE THE MARKET

In its heyday, Eastern Market's Second Empire-style architecture was visible from the west side of Lancaster, the ball-curved roof of the tower a prominent landmark. Eastern Market was one of five Victorian market houses built to serve the city's expanding nineteenth-century population. Eastern Market's origins are rooted in another important establishment in early America: the tavern. In 1744, when the streets in Lancaster were still named after the current British monarchs, Dr. Adam Simon Kuhn bought a plot of land on King George Street (now, East King Street) from



Indian Queen Tavern

Hans Musser. A man named Michael Lightner turned the building into a tavern in the aftermath of the American Revolution. Lightner opened the tavern in 1778, which at one point was dubbed "Washington Inn." The legend goes that Washington stopped for a rest at the inn long before he was president. The tavern, however, was widely known as "The Sign of the Indian Queen." Over the years it changed hands, remaining a tavern and under the name of the "Indian Queen," its last boniface was Dr. Henry Carpenter who bought the inn in 1865.

LANCASTER: A MARKET TOWN

About a decade later, notices appeared in the *Intelligencer* posted by the "Eastern Market House Company." Calling for a community meeting, one explains, "The erection of a market house is a necessary convenience to the people of the eastern end." There were eight markets in various corners of the city at the

end of the 19th century, the primary market being Central Market. In 1790, a century before the Eastern Market was built, 93% of the U.S. population was rural, most of them farmers. The markethouse was an essential establishment for early America and well into the early 20th century. Before automobiles and widespread use of refrigeration units, one had to buy fresh and local, there was little other choice for affordable and safe food. As an integral part of daily life, buying and selling of fresh, local produce, meats and baked goods, took the form of 'curb markets', which littered the streets of Lancaster from 1818 till after World War One. But the established public markets remained important in regulating wholesome and safe foods, and the need for these markets spread during the Victorian age.

THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN MARKET

Eastern Market was a result of an expanding city and it had an important placing on the map; the closest Market for Philadelphia travelers. Jacob Witmer, who remained director until his death, led the



Eastern Market, date unknown

Eastern Market Company, formed at Mrs. C. Snyder's public house. Together, the Company developed a committee and eventually accrued enough stock to purchase

the Indian Queen Tavern from Dr. Carpenter on May 4, 1883 for \$7,094.67. Architect John Evans and Contractor John Adam Burger were hired; the the whole construction cost around \$20,000 tractor John Adam Burger were hired; the the whole construction cost around \$20,000 and was finished by Christmas of the same year. It is the only Second Empire Style market in Lancaster. At its height, Eastern Market accommodated almost 200 stalls. On its opening day,



Eastern Market, 1885

the New Era published the following account: "Every stall was occupied, and the gratifying presence of so many farmers was remarked by all. Produce was very plenty, and prices were reasonable...It was quite an event for the people of the East End..."

CLOSING OF THE EASTERN MARKET

After the twentieth century dawned, Eastern Market was no longer a neighborhood necessity, and into its third decade, Eastern Market faced dissolution as its dividends had been gradually decreasing. By 1920, Saturdays were the only day market was held. In March of 1920, the Eastern Market Company voted 660 to 264 to disband



Bob Hess' Auto Showroom, c. 1950s

the corporation.

From 1920 until 1986, the renovated Eastern Market building housed three businesses. The Eastern Market site



Hess's at night, c. 1950s