



The Penn Street Market today!
(Photo by the Penn Street Market on Facebook, June)



Penn Square Market Building looking West on Penn from 6th St. in the 1870's.
Penn Square Market Building mirando hacia el oeste en Penn desde 6th St. en la década de 1870.



View of the Market Stalls between 4th and 5th Streets, as shown in the Penn Street Model at the Berks History Center Museum. The Model represents Reading around 1800.
Vista del mercado entre las calles 4 y 5, en la calle Penn. Modelo en el Museo del Centro de Historia de Berks. El modelo representa Reading de 1800.
(Photo by John Secoges)

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This guide was curated and published by the Berks History Center in partnership with the Penn Street Market and the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance.



GREATER READING CHAMBER ALLIANCE

Berks History on Penn

A SHORT WALKING TOUR & HISTORY OF THE 400 BLOCK OF PENN STREET



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La historia de Penn Street

Las primeras calles y parcelas de terreno que conformaban "Reading Town" se instalaron en 1743. Los fundadores de Reading, Thomas y Richard Penn, fueron los hijos del fundador de Pennsylvania, William Penn. Anteriormente, la tierra situada entre el río Schuylkill y la montaña (ahora llamada Mount Penn) era un bosque virgen. Nombrado para la ciudad en Inglaterra, las calles tempranas tenían nombre británico como Rey, Reina, Príncipe y Duque. Callowhill Street, ahora 5th Street, recibió su nombre de la segunda esposa de William Penn, Hannah Callowhill. En 1748, la ciudad fue establecida oficialmente, y cuatro años más tarde, se creó el condado de Berks. Penn Street ha actuado como el centro de Reading durante casi 300 años! Thomas y Richard Penn, en su constitución para la ciudad declararon que dos ferias se celebrarían cada año y que hubiera un mercado al aire libre cada semana. Los puestos fueron instalados en la Calle Penn entre lo que son las calles 4 y 6 en el siglo 18, reconstruidos en 1840 y derribados en 1871.

The History of Penn Street

The first streets and plots of land that made up "Reading Town" were laid out in 1743. Reading's Founders, Thomas and Richard Penn were two sons of Pennsylvania's founder and namesake, William Penn. Previously the land situated between the Schuylkill River and the mountain (now called Mount Penn) was untouched woodland. Named for the city in England, Reading's early streets showcased that British connection with names like King, Queen, Prince, and Duke. Callowhill Street--now 5th Street--was named after William Penn's second wife, Hannah Callowhill. In 1748, the town was officially established, and four years later, Berks County was created. Penn Street has acted as the center of Reading for almost 300 years! Market stalls were set up in what are now the 400 and 500 blocks of Penn Street. This dates back to the original charter from Thomas and Richard Penn, which proclaimed that two fairs should be held each year. The Clerk of the Market was directed to erect as many stalls as necessary at the two markets on Penn Street, which operated weekly. These open air markets, originally built in the 1700s, were rebuilt in the 1840's on Penn Square, and then torn down in 1871.



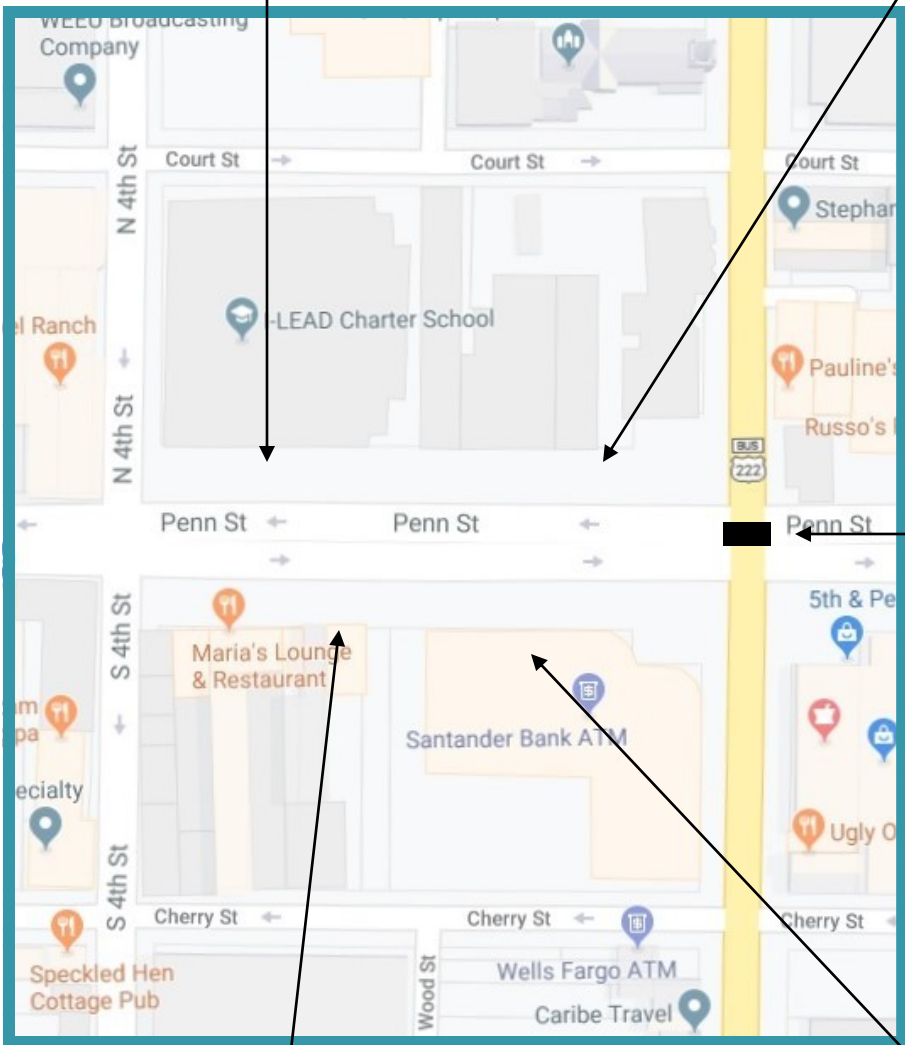
North side of the 400 Block of Penn Street (around 1900). This part of Penn Street has been home to many things over the years, including grocery stores, the WEEU TV Station, and the Central House Hotel. Now the Penn Street Market uses this block for their Market Days—keeping the tradition of the original Market Stalls alive in 2019!

El lado norte de la cuadra 400 de Penn Street (alrededor de 1900). Esta parte de Penn Street ha sido la locación para de muchas cosas a lo largo de los años, incluyendo tiendas de comestibles, el canal de televisión WEEU y el Central House Hotel. Ahora, el mercado de Penn Street utiliza este bloque para sus días de mercado, ¡manteniendo viva la tradición de los puestos de mercado originales en



Berks County Trust Building at 5th and Penn, 1950s-1960s. It was built in 1925 on the site of the former Federal Inn. Built in 1763, President George Washington visited the Federal Inn on a visit to Reading in 1794. The building was purchased in 1814 by Farmer's National Bank.

Berks County Trust Building en 5th y Penn, 1950s-1960s. Fue construido en 1925 en el sitio del antiguo Federal Inn. Construido en 1763, el presidente George Washington visitó el Federal Inn en una visita a Reading en 1794. El edificio fue comprado en 1814 por Farmer's National Bank.



From Google Maps, July 2019



Berks County's First Courthouse, that stood at Penn Square, 5th and Penn Streets. It was built in 1762 and torn down in 1841, when a new Courthouse was built at N. 6th and Court Streets.

El primer edificio municipal del condado de Berks, ubicado en las calles Penn Square, 5th y Penn. Fue construido en 1762 y demolido en 1841, cuando se construyó un nuevo edificio en el N. 6 y en las calles Court.



South side of the 400 Block of Penn Street (around 1900). At that time, Bon-Ton, Common Sense Shoe Store, and Deisher I. Alton Jewelry Store operated in this part of the block.

El lado sur de la cuadra 400 de Penn Street (alrededor de 1900). En ese momento, Bon-Ton, Common Sense Shoe Store y Deisher I. Alton Jewelry Store están esta parte del bloque.



Whitner's Department Store at 5th and Penn Streets, in the 1960s. Originally opening at 432 Penn Street in 1877, Whitner's moved and expanded to eventually occupy most of the southeast portion of the 400 Block and extended back to Cherry Street in the rear. The store closed in 1981 and was demolished in 2004 for the new Sovereign (now Santander) Bank Building.

Los grandes almacenes de Whitner en las calles 5th y Penn, en la década de 1960. Originalmente abierto en 432 Penn Street en 1877, Whitner se mudó y se expandió para eventualmente ocupar la mayor parte de la parte sureste del Bloque 400 y se extendió a Cherry Street en la parte trasera. La tienda se cerró en 1981 y fue demolida en 2004 para el nuevo Banco Sovereign (ahora Santander) Bank Building.

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