

THE YORK DISPATCH
York County's Afternoon Paper

Author looks at York's history through buildings

EYANA ADAH MCMILLAN *The York Dispatch*

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Scott Butcher is the author of York's Historic Architecture, a new book due in stores next week. (Claudette Roulo Photo)

Walking, sightseeing, researching, driving around and walking some more.

Since 1991, Scott Butcher, 39, of Springettsbury Township has been researching the stories behind the buildings of York County.

The historian revealed his findings and photographs in his recently released 160-page book, "York's Historic Architecture," which features about 100 buildings, along with information about the designers and the structures' usage and about the people who used them.

On the book's cover is a photo of the castle-like Gethsemane Hall, which was built in 1912 by local Freemasons, who held their meetings there. The structure is at 111 N. Beaver St. in York City.

"I get a lot of comments on it like, 'Wow, there are castles in York?'" said Butcher, who is also a photographer and director of business development at Nutec Group, a local architectural/engineering firm.

Another castle-like structure, an early York County jail -- built in 1854 -- is listed on page 13 of the book, which was published by the History Press, based in Charleston, S.C.

Church and state: While doing research for his book, Butcher said, he found that churches and government buildings were among the structures with the most aesthetic features such as arches and gothic characteristics. His book includes photographs of city-based St. Mary's Catholic

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"With churches, you had a group of people pulling their

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resources together to build a church that was a testament to their faith, and people wanted to share their pride of their church through their building," Butcher said. "It's the same concept with the government buildings. There was community pride in the architecture."

Butcher said his book is an offshoot of a 1991 term paper he did on architecture in York City while attending Penn State University, where he received a bachelor of science degree in marketing.

At the time, the city was celebrating its 250th anniversary.

"I had no idea there was such diversity of architecture here," he said. "I walked up and down so many streets, looking at buildings, taking pictures. I spent a fortune developing pictures."

Butcher said he got an "A" on that paper.

Not his first: "York's Historic Architecture" is one of several books Butcher has written about York County. His other books are "Postcard History Series: York," "Civil War Walking Tour of York, Pennsylvania," and "York: America's Historic Crossroads."

Butcher, who is a board member of the Historic York Inc., also has written visitors' guides for the York County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He helped launch virtualyork.com, a Web site highlighting York County's historical structures.

The author said he has much material on York's architectural history that he wants to share with the community.

"York's Historical Architecture" includes widely known structures, such as the Shoe House in Hellam Township and the Central Market House and York County Colonial Court House, both in downtown York, as well as the city-based Emerton Family Home, a mansion that became known as the Hahn Home and is now Kuhner Associates Funeral Directors Inc.

Butcher also gives information about historical districts around the county. He devoted a chapter to Hanover structures, including Eichelberger High School built in 1896, Sheppard and Myers Mansion finished in 1913, and Peoples National Bank completed in 1901.

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Available

To purchase "York's Historic Architecture" by Scott Butcher of Springettsbury Township, go to Charleston, S.C.-based History Press Web site at www.historypress.net, www.amazon.com. or www.borders.com., the Web site for Borders Books, Music and Café, which has a store at 3000 Whiteford Road in Springettsbury Township.

The book costs \$19.99 per copy.

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