

# Between Preservation and Possibility: Exploring the Past and Future of Easton's Hooper House



Lafayette College Tech  
Clinic  
Spring 2026 Mid-  
Project Report

## Table of Contents

Meet the Team .....	3
Introduction to our Project .....	6
Meetings .....	9
Visiting the Space.....	11
3D Model.....	16
History of the Hooper House .....	17
Providing a Purpose .....	24
Idea 1: Lodging .....	25
Idea 2: Tavern .....	31
Other Ideas in Formative Stages .....	35
Next Steps .....	36

Meet the Team!

**LAFAYETTE**  
**COLLEGE**

**Patrick Biason '28**

**Major:** Civil  
Engineering

**Lila DeAvila '28**

**Major:** Anthropology  
& Sociology

**Niko Williams '27**

**Major:** Electrical &  
Computer Engineering

**Helen Gerber '27**

**Major:** Government &  
Law, + Jewish Studies

**Ella Barr '28**

**Major:** International  
Affairs & French

**Beaux Lizewski '27**

**Major:** International Affairs +  
Government & Law

**Professor Malinconico (Geology)**

**Professor Ruebeck (Economics)**

# What is the Lafayette College Technology Clinic?

- Founded in 1986 (40th anniversary)
- Interdisciplinary Team
- Past Project Topics:
  - Sustainability, Medical Records, Drunk Driving Simulator
    - Bachmann Publick House



# Introduction to Our Project

## Overview: Our Client

- ❖ 2025: City of Easton acquired the Hooper House
- ❖ Beyond the City- also its residents and businesses



### *What is our role here? Why does this matter?*

- ❖ Especially important for the College's Bicentennial and America's 250-year celebration
- ❖ Repurpose and revitalize
  - Historical integrity
    - Context of other Revolutionary-era structures in Easton

# Overview: Easton in a Revolutionary-Era Context

## Structures Owned by Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society:

- Sigal Museum
- Bachmann Publick House
- Jacob Nicholas House
- Mixsell Illick House

## 5 Main Structures in Easton:

1. Bachmann Publick House
2. Parsons-Taylor House
3. First United Church of Christ
4. **\*Hooper House\***
5. Jacob-Nicholas House

Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society

Members Volunteers

### Welcome to the Society.

Since 1906, members of NICHOS have collected, preserved and showcased art, culture and American history made in Northampton County. View permanent and special exhibitions at our flagship Sigal Museum in historic downtown Easton. Research genealogy or family history at the Jane S. Moyer Library and the NICHOS Archives. Or join us at our three historic house properties for special events, or by appointment.

Choose one of our locations.

- Sigal Museum
- Bachmann Publick House
- Jacob Nicholas House
- Mixsell Illick House

Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society

### HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOURS

Every Saturday  
**2:00 PM**  
Sigal Museum

342 Northampton St. Easton



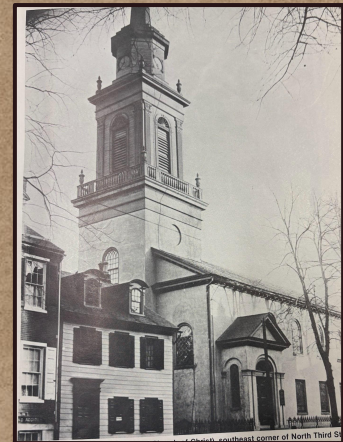
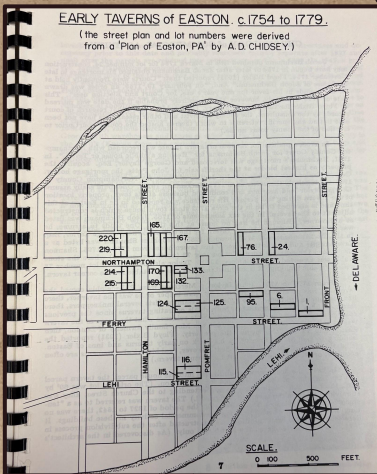
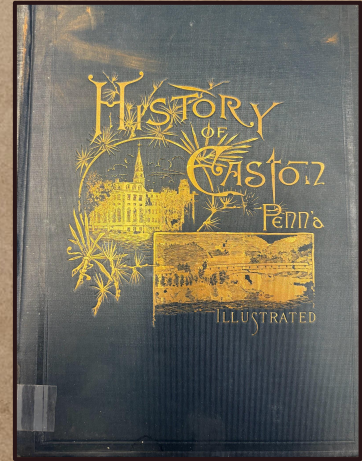
# Methodology: Meetings

- Robert Freeman
  - PA State Representative
- Dave Hopkins
  - Easton's Director of Public Works
- Trevor Pinho
  - Easton's Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development
- Megan van Ravenswaay & Andrew Glovas
  - Executive Director and Deputy Director of the Sigal Museum



# Methodology: Research

- Easton Public Library
  - Marx Room
- Ana Ramirez Luhrs
  - Lafayette Special Collections Archivist



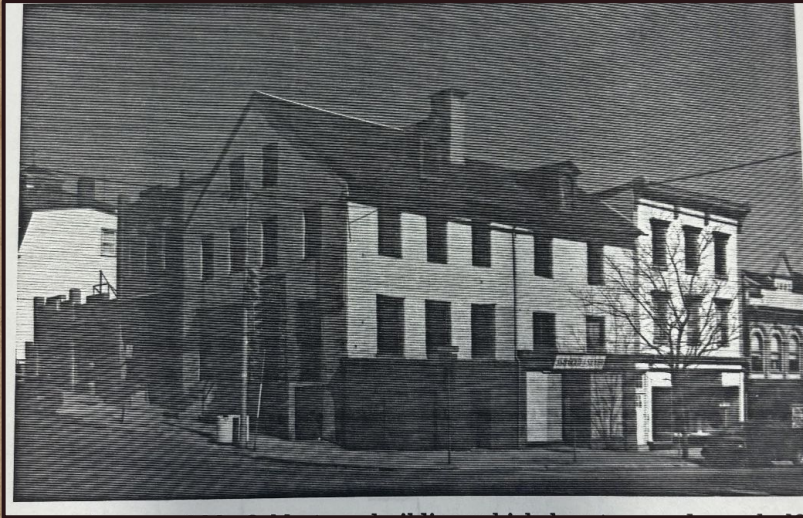
# Methodology: Visiting Other Structures

- Bachmann Publick House
  - Historical Walking Tour of Easton
  - Built in 1753
  - Renovated in 2016
- Jacob Nicholas House
  - Revolutionary War era house
  - Built in 1807
  - Renovated in 1990



# Revolutionary Era Restorations

Before



Marx Room, Easton Public Library

After



# Revolutionary Era Restorations

Before



Anthony R. Youngkin's Post on facebook, from 1930's

After



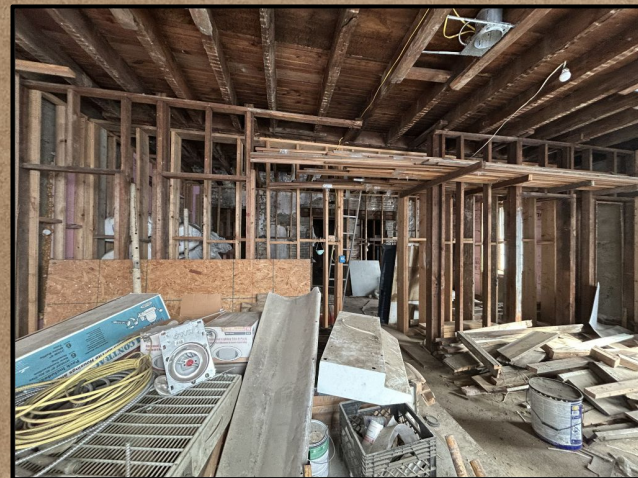
Sigal Museum

# Visiting the Space

Before cleanup ...



**First Floor**



**Second Floor**

# Visiting the Space

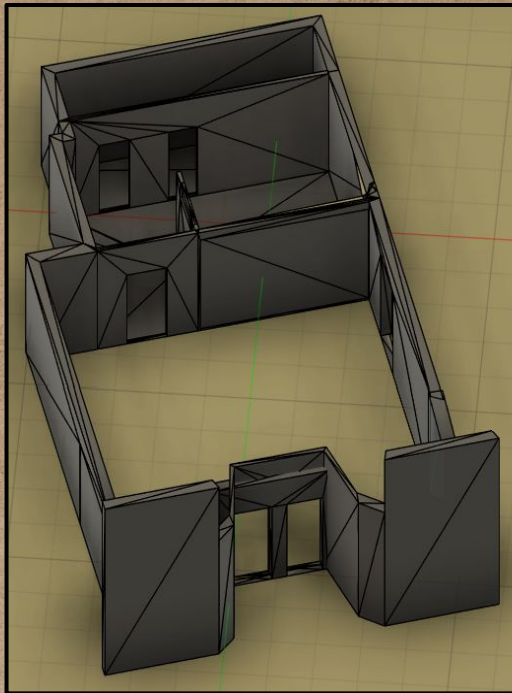
After!



**First Floor**

## 3D Model

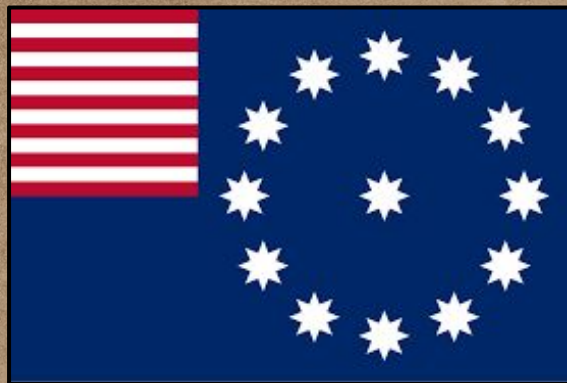
- MetaRoom Lidar Scanner
- Autodesk Fusion



# History of the Hooper House

# Revolutionary Era

- Built between 1761 and 1767 (Kachlin Inn)
- Owned by the Penn Family
- Used during the Revolutionary War
  - Colonel Robert Lettis Hooper Jr.



Easton Flag, 1776

## Easton:

- Frontier town of the revolution
- Military and political center

# 1800s

## Frequent Ownership Change:

1812: Sold to Nicholas Kraemer, then George Troxell

1818: Lost in Sheriff Sale, purchased by David Wagner

1830s: Rented to the printer Samuel Siegfried

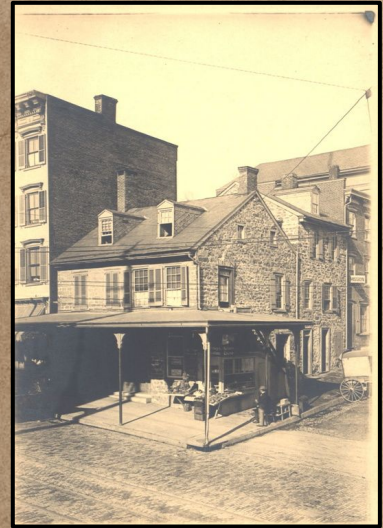
1850: Bought by John Lesher

1871: Bought by Daniel Herster

1883: Inherited by Mary Folkenson

## Easton:

- Shift from wartime to everyday use and businesses.
- Expanding economy.



1890, Easton Public Library  
Marx Room

## Early 1900s

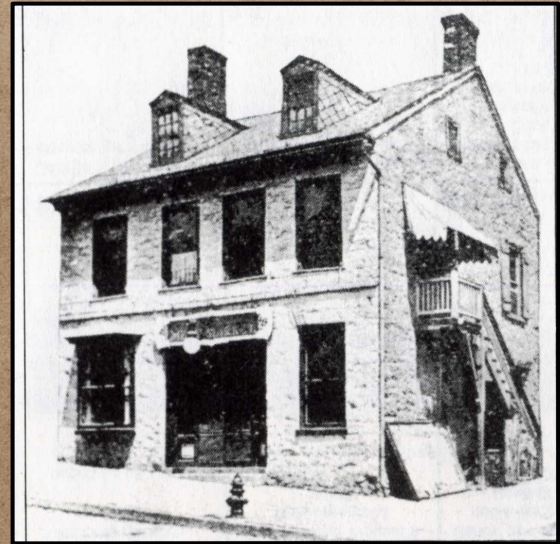
Markets and Storefronts:

1914: Sold to the Moses Family

1923: Leased to Charles Brand Meat Market

1933-1956: Milkin Appliance Store

Later various businesses



A Time to Remember, Wynkoop, Easton Public Library  
Marx Room

### Easton:

- Transported from just a home, to more of a store front.
- Easton as a strong industrial economy and commercial center.

# Late 1900s

Hooper's last use:

1969: Purchased by Dominic Burgio

1970s: Used as Coin shop

1979: Purchased by the Rock Church

## Easton:

Economic Decline, loss of industry.

Concern for restoration.



2015, Virginia-Lawrence Hope

# Hooper House Now



# Hooper House Now



# Providing a Purpose

# Idea 1: Lodging

## I. *Origin of the Idea*

- Sigal historic walking tour & discussed The Hotel Easton.
- Where do people with notoriety stay when visiting Easton?



Tom Hanks



Lin-Manuel Miranda

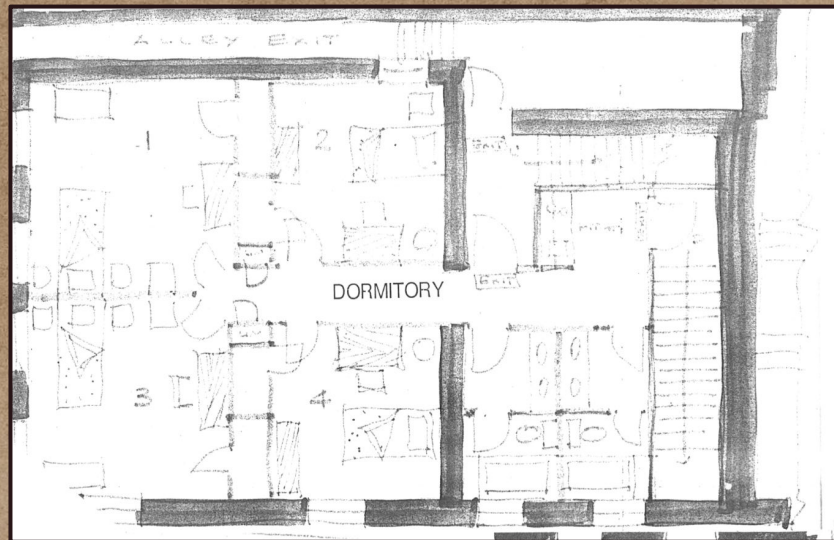
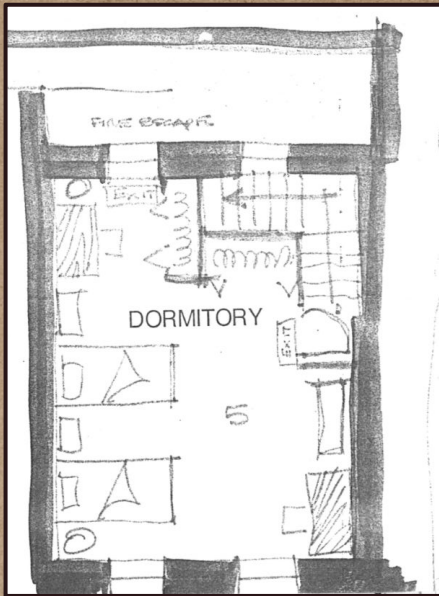


Bill Nye

# Idea 1: Lodging

## I. *Origin of the Idea*

- City council files with ideas for Hooper: dormitory
  - **1986 Application for Certificate of Use and Occupancy.**



# Idea 1: Lodging

## II. What would this look like?

- Live like someone in 1700s Pennsylvania!
- Historically accurate furniture/decor:  
Chippendale and Queen Anne styles



# Idea 1: Lodging

## *II. What would this look like?*

- Bachmann Publick House
- Jacob Nicholas House



# Idea 1: Lodging

## *III. Why would this benefit Easton?*

- Private place for people to stay, those with notoriety can be more comfortable.
- When not booked for a stay, property could be used for:
  - Special meetings
  - Event space
  - Apart of museum experience/tour
- Provides immersive tourist attraction.
- Way to showcase history of Easton.

# Idea 1: Lodging

## *III. How would this work?*

- Private Investor?
  - Example: Townley House Boutique Hotel
- Partner with larger hotel for property management.
  - Example: The Grand Eastonian

In recent years, historically preserved boutique hotels have proven successful in cities across the country.

- Past five years up to 2025, revenue grew by about 8.7% per year, reaching a total of \$36.5 billion.
- In 2025 alone, increased by an additional 1.9%.

## Idea 2: Tavern



Revolutionary War Journal

## Idea 2: Tavern

- Bar Games/Music:

- Billiards
- Darts
- Shuffleboard
- Old-Style Games
- Musicians



First Youth Center, Phillipsburg 1954  
Source: Marx Room



Revolutionary Band  
Source: Revolutionary War Journal

## Idea 2: Tavern

- Historical Preservation:
  - Architecture
  - Menu
  - Staff Attire



Hotel Easton Bar Room, Easton 1931

Source: Marx Room

## Idea 2: Tavern

- Community Need:
  - Easton Residents
  - Lafayette Students
  - Veteran Discounts
  - Trivia Nights



The Old '76 Tavern, New York  
Source: Past Lane Travels

# Other Ideas in Formative Stages

## Pop-up Grocery Store Program

### Small Business

- Pottery studio
- Art gallery
- Escape room



## Used by LANDIS Center

### Corporate Investor

- Professional Space
  - Law Firm, Accounting, etc.



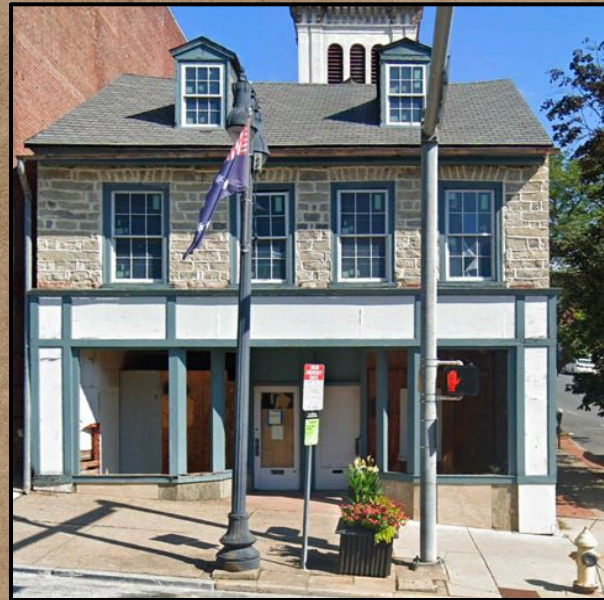
# Next Steps

- Listening to the Public = City of Easton tablings
  - Heritage day
  - Farmer's Market
- Further development of existing ideas
  - Lodging
  - Tavern
- Expanding historical timeline
  - Utilize Marx room in Public Library
  - Study Richard Hope's work



Inside an Ordinary by Edward Tunis

Questions? Comments? Let's talk!



Thank you!