

129 E. Market Street

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Thomas O. and Sarah E. Cole built this home in 1917. Thomas was a senior executive at Bethlehem Steel and president of the Philadelphia, Bethlehem and New England Railroad Company, the internal railroad system for Bethlehem Steel. A sign for the old railway can still be seen overhead on the bridge near the intersection of Rt. 412 and Shimersville Rd.

After Thomas' death in 1926, the house was sold to Harry J. Fritch and Winifred A. Fritch. Harry, along with his brothers, worked in their father's flour mills, T.D. Fritch & Sons and Diamond Roller Mills. The Fritch family also owned the Lehigh Coal Company, later named Fritch Coal Company. Still in existence today, the company now operates as Fritch Inc. and is locally known for its 1926 sign that rises above the Hill-to-Hill Bridge.

The current owners completed a top-to-bottom restoration including the preservation of inlaid hardwood floors, leaded and stained glass windows and doors, and a vestibule with stone wainscoting and decorative tile. Leaded glass cabinet doors were converted into



transom windows for the dining room and living room and the original butler's pantry was moved to the mudroom where it still provides covered storage.

The main bath still boasts many original fixtures including the wall tile, tub, bathroom accessories, medicine cabinet, and stained and leaded glass windows. Its glass door opens to a sunny, second-story balcony - a luxury then and now. Rooms were combined to create a luxurious master suite complete with walk-in closets, a coffee bar and an oversized bathroom with a double slipper tub, walk-in shower, heated floors, leaded glass windows, and a private covered porch.

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