

510 High Street - WEISS ESTATE CARRIAGE HOUSE

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This Second Empire Victorian carriage house is part of the original “Weiss Estate” along what was known as Bethlehem’s “Millionaire Mile.” Francis Weiss was one of the large coal operators of Pennsylvania and a man of remarkable ability. He started life as

a poor boy working on farms and in a saw mill until eighteen years of age. He was entirely self-educated and worked as a teacher until he joined the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. He assisted in surveying for the Lehigh and Morris Canals and the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Francis and three partners leased a valuable tract of land and went into the coal mining business. He designed and built the “Gravity” railroad from Summit Hill to Mauch Chunk in order to transport the company’s coal. It was around 1860 that the coal business took off, and Francis became immensely wealthy. When the land lease expired, the firm dissolved, but Francis retained ownership interests in coal fields which paid him royalties.

Quiet and unassuming in manner, Francis was well liked and an interesting conversationalist. He was a prominent figure in the Episcopal Church and was one of the principal contributors toward building Trinity Episcopal Church.

Because of its attachment to such a formal estate, this carriage house is quite elaborate. The interior was skillfully modified for use as a residence with the south entrance beautifully adapted to include a patio and breakfast area. Numerous windows allow maximum light and an unobstructed view of the extensive grounds.

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