

23 E. Church Street

At one time, this c1855 Federal-style home was two separate residences with the current kitchen area being an attached cottage. After purchasing this lot from the Moravians in 1855, George and Christiana Dilgert (also spelled Dilger, Dilcher, Dilliard) built the left side of the house you see today.

If you look closely, you can see evidence in the exterior brickwork where the addition was carefully integrated.

According to census records, George Dilgert was a “house carpenter” and Christiana “kept the house.” They had four children: Mary, born in 1854, Amanda, born in 1855, Emma, born in 1868, and Oscar, born in 1877.



In 1861, Julia Ann Shimer Hillman purchased the home. It is believed that Julia added the right half and built the brick house next door. Julia was the widow of Dr. Richard Emil Hillman, a prominent doctor and son of Aaron Hillman, a farmer who leased 160 acres from the Moravian Seminary (now Moravian College) that also included Burnside Plantation.

Julia and Richard Hillman had two children, Emma and Shimer, and no other direct heirs. Upon her passing, Julia’s children lived on the property and then, as specified in her will, her estate went to the Moravian Church.

This sun-filled home features large rooms, views of South Mountain, and a lovely eat-in kitchen with doors leading to a courtyard patio. The owner has treasures from all over the world including a c1900 trunk, paintings from Vietnam, and a dining table that was once part of an old Chinese ship.

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