

80 W. Market Street

The earliest known resident of this c1755 home is William Boehler Sr. who emigrated from Germany with his cousin, Bishop Peter Boehler, in 1756. Bishop Boehler was a prominent religious leader and William was a carriage maker. A 1766 map identifies this address as a wheelwright's shop. Later documents related to this property mention William Sr.'s son, William Boehler Jr., and Philip Boehler, both skilled woodworkers. William Boehler Jr. was hired as a "master carpenter" to work on the Moravian Church. The Boehler family owned this property until 1834 when ownership reverted to the Moravian Church.

In 1907, war hero Brigadier General William Emile Doster turned this building into his law office. In 1861, Doster served as Captain of Company A, 4th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. While leading a charge in 1863, his horse was shot and he was captured. However, within the hour he was able to escape by striking down the man who guarded him. According to personal accounts, the most harrowing moments of his life occurred as he made his way back to his regiment through enemy territory. General Doster's military career was cut short when he contracted malaria just after the Battle of Gettysburg. In 1865, he was honored with the title Brevet Brigadier General "for gallant and meritorious service in the field."



In 1864, General Doster began practicing law in Washington D.C. and was appointed as counsel for Lewis Payne and George Atzerodt, two men who conspired to assassinate President Lincoln. Both were convicted and hanged. General Doster represented many local companies including the Bethlehem Iron Company, which later became Bethlehem Steel, and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. He was also the attorney for many of Bethlehem's prominent citizens and their families.

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