

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION FORM
(Additional Sheets of Paper will be necessary for
complete documentation)

MUSEUM

Please type or print

1. Owner's name and address:
2. Location of property:
3. Tax Block _____ Tax Lot _____
4. When was the building erected? For whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame). Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.
5. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the building? (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.) Do any architect's plan or building accounts exist? Where?
6. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
7. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom? (i.e., a quick chain of title). If possible, please give some background on each occupant. (i.e., occupations or other interesting facts). List the sources of your information.
8. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
9. What is the significance of this property? (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.
10. Describe the present condition of the property.
11. Is the property listed in any existing Historic Register or survey? (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places or any other state or local history). If so, please give the title of the listing.

The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

August 18, 1982

Date

John C. Dawson
Signature of Property Owner(s)
Mailing address:

Drawer F, Salem Station

Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108

Telephone: [REDACTED]

PAID
9/28/82
RR

1. Old Salem, Inc.
Drawer F, Salem Station
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108
2. 532 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27101
3. Tax Block 564 Tax Lot 112, 113, 114, 109
4. The Miksch Tobacco Shop was originally built and occupied by the Miksch family in 1771. The house was adapted for additional use as a retail shop shortly thereafter, by the addition of a bedroom and completion of a loft room. (The addition appears on a Salem map of 1775).
5. There are no building records regarding the Miksch Shop.
6. Old Salem has on file photographs of the Miksch Tobacco Shop which date ca. 1877, ca. 1890, and later.

Maps: "Salem about the year 1840"
 "Bird's Eye View of Winston-Salem, 1891"
 "Map of Salem, North Carolina, Stokes County, Sept. 20, 1822"
 Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1895, 1900, 1912, 1917
 "Report of the Committee appointed to lay out the Town of Salem according to the principles adopted since 1819- Feb. 15, 1821"

7. Johann Mattheus Miksch 1771 Records of the Moravians
 Rev. Samuel Gottlieb Kramsch 1805 (re-established retail business in lean-to to South Gable in 1801)
 Johannes Lehnert 1813 (tailor, continued business died 1825)
 August Ernst Vierling 1825 Ibid.
 Widow Martha Elizabeth Vierling 1829 "
 Widow Benigna Boner 1836 "
 Philip Lagenauer c. 1850 "
 James M. Fisher, a baker 1851 "
 T. B. Douthit 1872 (Mrs. Douthit conducted a Milliner's business)
 Erwin D. Scringer 1923 Deed extract, Forsyth Co. Tax Office
 Samuel E. Welfare 1946 Ibid. (conducted a Drug Store on the property)
 Old Salem, Inc. 1958 Ibid.
8. The building was used originally as a private dwelling and shortly thereafter as a shop as well. Today it is used as an exhibit building in Old Salem.

9. The historic district of Old Salem was designated a "Registered National Historic Landmark" by the U. S. Department of the Interior in 1966. Within this landmark are unrestored, restored and reconstructed buildings, which, as a whole, present an authentic architectural representation of the community of Salem between 1766 and 1856. This structure is considered by the Historic District Commission to be an integral and contributing part of the total landscape and subject to Zoning Ordinance Section 29-1, strictly governing its use and appearance.

Johann Mattheus Miksch (1731-1810) arrived in Salem from Bethabara with his wife Maria in 1770, and began directing the construction of his house in November of that year.¹ By April 1771, they had moved into their house,² and soon after added a back room to provide ample space for a shop which was created in the north room. This room appears on a Salem map of 1785.

Records show that the original house was a log dwelling covered with weatherboards, and that it was one of the first houses built on the block. It is interesting to note that the Miksch house, being covered with weatherboards and of log construction, was one of the first Old Salem structures which did not have exposed half-timbered walls. The house had a tile roof and the interior was plastered, at least in part.

Miksch had trouble getting started in his trade of shopkeeper upon his arrival to Salem, and there was "much talk about his inconsistency and his poor living with much pity." The Aufseher Collegium was constantly suggesting trades for Miksch to undertake, such as barber, tobacconist,³ seller of oils and dried fruit,⁴ candlemaker,⁵ and baker.⁶ Throughout the years, he also undertook making soap, and binding books, for which he had been previously trained.

After some time, his business fared well and Miksch became a civic leader, being appointed forester,⁷ and given charge of the Lovefeast.⁸ He and his wife were first Saaldiener of the church for many years.⁹

Matthew Miksch died on June 16, 1810 after many years of suffering.

The Miksch house was restored under the direction of Old Salem, Inc. in 1960, and is now being used as an exhibit building.

Architecturally, it is the oldest extant log structure in Old Salem and the oldest tobacco shop on its original site in America. With three rooms clustered around a large centered chimney the house duplicates the early architectural style and floor plan typical of early Salem.

10. The building was carefully restored under the direction of Old Salem, Inc. in 1960.
11. The Miksch house is currently a contributing structure in the Old Salem Historic District, a Registered National Historic Landmark. It is also listed in From Frontier to Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County.

NOTES

The original manuscripts being principally in German, the following translations for historical data were used:

Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vols. I-VI (Raleigh North Carolina Historical Commission 1922-1943) by Dr. Adelaide L. Fries; Vol. VII by Dr. Fries, Vol. VIII by Douglas L. Rights, Vol. IX by Dr. Minnie J. Smith and Vols. X and XI by the Rt. Rev. Kenneth G. Hamilton (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1947-1969).

Erika Huber -- Unpublished translations made for Old Salem, Inc. and file at the Archives of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Edmund Schwarze -- Unpublished translations made for Old Salem, Inc. and on file at the Archives of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, N. C.

1. Record of the Moravians, Fries, p. 672
2. Unknown, Diary written in English on blank pages of a Charleston Almanac, Wachovia Historical Society, 29 November 1770
3. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Fries, p. 442
4. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Fries, p. 768
5. Ibid., p. 696
6. Ibid., p. 899
7. Erika Huber, Aufseher Collegium, 25 January 1785
8. Ibid., 6 June 1787
9. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Fries, p. 2239
10. Ibid., p. 2038