

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION

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

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.

Date

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

44B S. Trade St

W-S W.S.

Telephone: _____

RR PAID
25.00
9/28/82

1. John C. and Sharon K. Larson
448 S. Trade Street
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27101
2. 448 S. Trade Street
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27101
3. Tax Block 561 Tax Lot 89
4. Christian F. Sussdorff House (1839) Lot 89

Christian F. Sussdorff, a horticulturist, piano tuner, photographer, and tobacco manufacturer, submitted plans for his house to be located on Lot 89, 18 June 1838.¹ The Aufseher Collegium felt the proposed house was too expensive so after some downward modifications the plans were approved in July.² The house was completed by June 1839.³

There have been two major alterations to the original 1½ story, four room plan. The first was the conversion of the ½ story into a full second story. This occurred in the mid 1850's, probably after Sussdorff had sold to Julius Kern or it had been passed on to Issac Lash in 1857. The style and detailing of the second floor are of the Greek Revival period and match the other two brick houses on Trade Street which date 1856 and 1857.⁴ The second alteration consists of a kitchen ell added to the northwest corner of the house ca. 1878 by Thomas Spaugh. His name appears written in pencil on one of the window jambs.

5. It is clear that Sussdorff contracted much of the work on this house for the Moravian records state that "He has made a contract with the bricklayer and carpenter amounting to \$1060."⁵ The names of these workmen are not known at this time but the Aufseher Collegium records of 27 August 1838 state "Br. Sussdorff wishes to house a certain Mr. Rea and his family who is employed to help Br. Sussdorff with the construction of his house..."⁶ In his memoir, Sussdorff states that it cost him \$1300 to build the house. He also stated that he "laid off a little garden." Being a trained horticulturist it is probable that he did his own landscaping with a bit more flair than other residents of Salem. An entry of 18 June 1838 reflects the concern of the governing bodies about the direction the horticultural talents of Sussdorff might take. "The Collegium agrees to the idea of the Elder's Conference that he (Sussdorff) should not be permitted to establish in his gardens something like nine-pin-alleys nor shall he sell drinks or arrange pleasure parties."⁷

To date no building records, plans, elevations or accounts regarding the construction of the house have been found.

6. One early photograph of the building from the west has been found. It dates ca. 1890. Other visual representatives of the house can be found in the following documents of which copies are on file at Old Salem, Inc.:

Maps: "Salem about the year 1840"
 Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1907 and 1917
 "Birds Eye View of Winston-Salem - 1891"

Artist Views: "View of Salem from west 1839"
 Watercolor of Salem from west ca. 1839
 Watercolor view of Salem from west ca. 1850

7.	Christian F. Sussdorff	1838	
	Julius Kern	1854	17 July 1854 Aufseher Collegium
	Isaac Lash	1857	
	Henry Lash	1863	
	John A. Lash		
	Melvina L. Lash		
	Thomas Spaugh	1878	Deed Book 43, page 130
	William T. Spaugh		
	R. A. Spaugh		
	Henry F. Shaffner (Wachovia Bank)	1900	Deed Book 60, page 459
	W. G. and S. A. Smothers	1904	Deed Book 73, page 82
	J. F. Conrad	1906	Deed Book 84, page 80
	James M. Perryman	1936	Deed Book 399, page 200
	Old Salem, Inc.	1978	Deed Extract Forsyth County
	John C. & Sharon K. Larson	1978	Tax Office

8. This building is on its original site and continues in its original use as a private dwelling.
9. The 1839 Sussdorff House is the oldest of the three Trade School Houses listed in 1978 on the National Register by the Department of the Interior.

Christian Fredrick Sussdorff was born in the Grand Dutchy of Sex Weiman, Germany 28 August 1807.⁸ He was trained and worked for several years in the gardens of central Europe before arriving in America in 1833. The first few years were spent in South Carolina mostly in Columbia. During this time he became very ill and learned piano tuning so he would not have to return to the strenuous work in the sun. In August of 1836 he arrived in Salem and took up lodging at the home of Johann Hagen.⁹ Three years later he married Johann's daughter, Louisa Cynthia Hagan. The demand for a European trained horticulturist in Piedmont North Carolina was small so he relied on his piano tuning for income which caused him to travel extensively. In the effort to remain in Salem with his family more he tried several other occupations including manager of the Cotton Factory photography, a tobacco manufacturer and also marketed the first lantern show in Salem.¹⁰ His wife worked as a milliner.¹¹ But his chief source of income remained piano tuning and instruction. His musical ability must have been widely known and well respected for Thomas Day, the well-known Negro furniture maker in Milton, chose to send his daughter to Sussdorff for instruction.¹²

The house itself is an important element in the architectural history and physical expansion of the town of Salem. The first floor reflects the style in vogue at the time when first constructed by Sussdorff. A beaded baseboard, well executed chair rails, four panel doors and corner fireplaces show all the characteristics of detailing common in Salem in first half of the 1800's. On the second story the detailing is entirely different as a result of the 1850's addition. Here paint is used to embellish the very plain woodwork of the Greek Revival period. Baseboards were marbalized and doors stippled.

The house, third to be built on this street, followed the traditional four room plan with the unusual variation in Salem of having two exterior end chimneys. It was also placed back on the lot, and is today the earliest extant example of this variation. In brief, the house vividly portrays the influence of new architectural styles and land use concepts being adapted in Salem in the mid 19th century. It is an important element linking modern Winston-Salem with architects of early Salem.

10. The Sussdorff House is currently undergoing restoration and is in excellent structural condition.
11. The house is listed on The National Register of Historic Sites 1978 "Comprehensive Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures in the South Marshall Community Development Area" 1977 Jean Craddock, From Frontier to Factory 1981, Gwynne Taylor.

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 on 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. Erika Huber, Aufscher Collegium, 18 June 1838.
2. Ibid., 16 July 1838.
3. Memoir of C. F. Sussdorff, Old Salem, Inc.
4. Jean Craddock, Comprehensive Inventory of Historic Sites and Structures in the South Marshall Community Development Area.
5. Edmund Schwarze, Aeltesten Conferenz, 11 July 1838.
6. Huber, Aufseher Collegium, 27 August 1838.
7. Ibid., Aufseher Collegium, 18 June 1838.
8. Memoir
9. Huber, Aufseher Collegium, 4 September 1837.
10. Schwarze, Aeltesten Conferenz, 23 March 1840; Memoir; Huber, Aufseher Collegium, 22 May 1850.
11. Huber, Aufseher Collegium, 28 June 1847.
12. Ibid., 28 June 1847.