

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: Körners Folly, Inc.
South Main Street
Kernersville, N. C. 27284
2. Location of Property:
• South Main Street, Kernersville, Forsyth County, North Carolina.
3. Tax Block 2105 Tax Lot 42B
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.
Homeplace of Jule Gilmer Körner originally constructed 1878-1880. Rear portion of home has an addition of 4 room areas added around turn of the century (one used for furnace, the other for kitchen/food preparation/eating). Original design of house has been modified in that carriageway through center of home was enclosed making a foyer and diningroom. Also, original stables which were on south side of house were enclosed to make a library and sewing room.
Renovations were made in 1886.

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 plans or building accounts exist? Where?
Design was by Jule Gilmer Körner himself. Joseph John Körner, brother and Henry Clay Körner, half-brother, to Jule worked on home. Paintings and frescos were done by Caesar Milch from Berlin. A Mr. McClamrock from Greensboro, it is said, laid the tile so prevalent on the first floor.

Original plans are mere drawings not to scale, but do exist. There have been architectural drawings done of the home in the 1950s. These also still exist.

6. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?

There are numerous old photos of the home dating back to the early 1900s. These are of the inside and exterior. None known to this writer prior to 1900.

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.

Jule Gilmer Körner - Polly Alice Masten Körner
who, in turn, left the home to their children:
Jules Gilmer Körner, Jr. and Allie Dore' Körner Donnell

Sold in 1970 to Körners Folly, Inc.

The house was used as a home from 1880 through 1924 and as a summer home through 1934. It was opened in the 1930s as a museum and tourist attraction but closed with the outbreak of World War II. The home has also been operated as an antique store in the 1960s. Since 1970 the home has been open to the public on a tour basis.

8. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.

Originally used as an office, home, and stables.

Building has never been moved.

Information from family members, books, newspaper articles, and public records.

9. What is the significance of this property. (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.

Home of Jule Gilmer Körner, grandson of Joseph Kerner who was the founder of Kernersville.

A unique example of victorian architecture.

Houses the first Little Theatre in America.

Valued for its creative design with many features ahead of its time.

Displays the creative designs of one of America's first outdoor advertisers (Bull Durham advertisement).

Mr. Körner later became one of the first successful interior decorators in the southeast.

The building contains original paintings by Caesar Milch, a German artist and member of the Royal Academy of Art in Berlin.

In 1972 the paintings in Cupids' Park were restored by three graduates of the Central Institute of Restoration in Rome.

Sources for information - descendants of Jule Körner, natives of Kernersville, magazines, and papers.

10. Describe the present condition of the property.

The structure is weather proof. Some original paintings and frescos have been refurbished. Brick work is in good condition, woodwork flooring, etc. in reasonable and sound condition. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced (in 1950s) with tin which is in reasonably sound condition.

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.

National Register of Historic Places.

APPLICATION FEE \$50.00 (Check payable to Forsyth County)

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

5/20/85
Date

M. W. T. Walker Pres. Korman's Folly Inc.
Signature of Property Owner(s)

Mailing address:

202 S. Cherry St.
Kernersville, N.C. 27284

Telephone: 