



HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2511

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102

919-727-2087

APPLICATION for HISTORIC DESIGNATION HISTORIC and ARCHITECTURAL

INFORMATION FORM

1. Name of Property: Historic _____
Common The (Dr. John Francis) Shaffner House
2. Owner's Name and Address: John Spicer Norwood
428 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
3. Location of Property: 428 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC
4. Amount of Land to be Designated: House and Lot
5. Tax Block: 559 Tax Lot: 48

ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER WILL BE NECESSARY FOR
DOCUMENTATION ON QUESTIONS 6 THROUGH 13.

6. 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.
7. 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?
8. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
9. 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.
10. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
11. What is the significance of this property (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.

City of
Winston-Salem

County of
Forsyth

Town of
Kernersville

12. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration and was the restoration done under the supervision of any historical group or in compliance with their requirements. If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?
13. 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.

In addition to the written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:

- a black and white, 8" x 10" overall photograph clearly depicting the property being designated.
- color slides showing all 4 sides of the building (may also include any architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance)
- a map showing the location of the property, including any outbuildings and appurtenant features

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

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

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

30 OCTOBER 1987
Date

John Spencer Norwood
Signature of Property Owner

Mailing Address:

428 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. 27101

Telephone: _____

6. "In 1873 The Salem People's Press reported that Dr. John Francis Shaffner's new house with a mansard roof had been completed in Salem. Elias Vogler was the architect."¹

A northern wing in conforming style and an entrance veranda were added in 1913.²

In 1944 back porch space was enclosed and a side door was created.

7. The architect was Elias A. Vogler. As reported in People's Press: "Mr. E. A. Vogler has shown us a draft of Dr. Shaffner's new dwelling which will be put up during the summer. Mr. Vogler is the architect, and will superintend the construction in every detail.

"The building will be of brick, two stories high, with an elegant French mansard roof, covered with ornamental slate.

"Altogether it promises to be the handsomest private dwelling in town, and situated on Main Street."³

The interior decorative plasterwork was reported done by itinerant Italian craftsmen.⁴

¹ Gwynne Stevens Taylor. From Frontier to Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Division of Archives and History with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Historic Properties Commission, City-County Planning Board of Forsyth County and Winston-Salem, 1981, pp. 51-52.

² Winston-Salem Section, North Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Architectural Guide, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Winston-Salem: R. J. Reynolds Industries, 1978, p. 65.

³ People's Press. L. V. and E. T. Blum, Publishers. May 8, 1873.

⁴ Frank A. Shaffner. Mr. Shaffner, who grew up in this house, added that the craftsmen were said to have celebrated excessively and itinerated before completing the ceiling. They were finally located in another town and were brought back by his grandfather, Dr. Shaffner, to finish the work in sobered condition. (Conversation 10/18/87 with J.S.N.)

8. It is likely that old photographs of the house exist, but none are available at this time.
9. Born at Salem in 1838, J. F. Shaffner, M.D. served in the Confederate Army as Battlefield Surgeon with distinction and wrote of his experiences with compassion.⁵ Returning home after Appomattox, he was active in his profession⁶ and in too many other civic activities to receive proper treatment here.⁷

After the death of Dr. Shaffner in 1908, and his son John Francis in 1910, the house continued to be the home of his widow, the former Caroline Louisa Fries, and her widowed daughter-in-law with her small children. The younger Mrs. Shaffner succeeded as "chatelaine" in 1923, and her death, about twenty years later, led to the closing of the house.

In 1944 the house was sold to Evan Wilkins and Emma Wilson Norwood,⁸ returned missionaries from China. After death of her husband in 1979, Emma W. Norwood sold the house to their son, the present owner.⁹

⁵ Loyd Little, "Doctor wrote of war suffering", Winston-Salem Journal, November 1, 1966, p. 5.

⁶ Ibid. "He was among other things, chairman of many committees, delegate to the American Medical Association from the N. C. Medical Society in 1872 and President of the Society in 1880."

⁷ Robert W. Prichard, M.D. Winston-Salem in History, Vol. 11, Medicine. Historic Winston 1976. Page 17, "He served at various times as president of the Salem Water Supply Co., Vice President of the Winston-Salem Building and Loan Association, Mayor of Salem, and operator of his own cotton gin and bone mill."

⁸ Forsyth County Register of Deeds. Book No. 517, page 333.

⁹ Ibid. Book No. 1325, page 0479.

10. The house was built for a family home; and, since the nineteenth century family was an extended one, and large, so was it planned and so used. This fact was of great importance in facilitating its adaptation in 1944 for multi-family use. Consequently, its exterior appearance was almost totally unaffected and its interior character preserved.

11. Aside from the association of a brilliant man and his distinguished family with this house, "it exemplified Salem changing in the mid-nineteenth century from a theocratic society into a modern industrial town."¹⁰ Called the first local "mansion", it introduced into a bustling Moravian community the sophisticated taste of the newly renovated Paris under Napoleon II and Eugenie. Still today, "...in Forsyth County the finest existing example of the Second Empire style is the Dr. Shaffner House on Main Street in Salem."¹¹

It is so notable for excellence of design, materials, and workmanship or perhaps "romance", that it is a constant source of interest to and questions from passers-by of all ages and backgrounds. It is photographed regularly.

It is an important little facet of our history and heritage, with expanded usefulness today.

Its aesthetic value is acclaimed by the authorities and enjoyed by the community alike.
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¹⁰ Winston-Salem Section, N. C. Chapter of the AIA. Architectural Guide, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. p. 65.

¹¹ Gwynne Stevens Taylor, op. cit., p. 57.

12. The professional description states, as follows:

"A slate belcast mansard roof crowned the five bay rectangular pressed brick structure of two and one-half stories. An American bond brick course forms a cornice on the exterior wall. Brick pilasters strengthened the angles of the building. Double-jointed chimney stack units were built at the sides of the house and five hooded dormers projected from the mansard roof. The wooden eaves of the roof rested on supporting double brackets and flat windows capped with cut stone decorated lintels dominate the main facade. In 1913 two alterations to the exterior were completed: An open verandah supported classical ionic columns one story in height attached to the main facade, and a northern wing duplicating the brickwork and trim of the original building. The interior of the house followed a plan in which the rooms led from a central hall. An oval spiral staircase open stringer with curving balustrade ending in a heavy newel dominates the central hall."¹²

On the first landing niches are recessed into the curved corners. Deep plaster crown mouldings and ceiling medallions embellish the stair hall and principal reception room. Chimney pieces of simulated black marble, or "faux marbre", are in this and four other rooms.

The building is in good condition. Maintenance repairs continue.

13. The house is pictured and described in:

- Architectural Guide to Winston-Salem Forsyth County¹³
- From Frontier to Factory¹⁴

¹² Winston-Salem Section, N.C. Chapter of the AIA. Architectural Guide, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. p. 65.

¹³ Ibid., pp. 64-65.

¹⁴ Gwynne Stevens Taylor, op. cit., pp. 51-52.

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- Taylor, Gwynne Taylor. From Frontier to Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County. Winston-Salem: Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Historic Property Commission, 1981.
- Tise, Larry E.; Prichard, Robert W., M.D.; et al. Winston-Salem in History, Volume 11 Medicine. Winston-Salem: Historic Winston, 1976.
- Winston-Salem Section, North Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects. Architectural Guide: Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Winston-Salem: R. J. Reynolds Industries, 1978.

ORIGINAL FROM: MRS. J. KENNETH BURGER
(SMILEY SHAFFNER)
120 PINE VALLEY ROAD



SHAFFNER HOUSE CA. 1907 -



SHAFER
HOUSE
1987