



# HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2511

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102

919-727-2087

## APPLICATION for HISTORIC DESIGNATION HISTORIC and ARCHITECTURAL

### INFORMATION FORM

- Name of Property: Historic Distiller's House  
Common Brewer's House
- Owner's Name and Address: Moravian Church in America, Southern Province  
459 S. Church Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
- Location of Property: Historic Bethabara Park,  
2147 Bethabara Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106
- Amount of Land to be Designated: less than 1 acre;  
approximately 24,375 square feet
- Tax Block: 3459 Tax Lot: portion of 5

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

- 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.
- 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?
- Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
- 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.
- What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
- 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



**BREWER'S HOUSE, cont'd.**

6. The Distiller's (Brewer's) House was erected in 1803 for distiller Hermann Buttner (Herman Butner).

There have been several known changes to the house. The cellar beams were re-used from an earlier structure. In the late 1930s, when the house was readied for use as the parsonage of the Bethabara Moravian Church, a frame addition was built on the rear, nearly doubling the size of the first floor. Prior to this addition, a frame shed extended across the rear of the house. At the same time the addition was built, the door on the northwest side of the house at cellar level was converted to a window, the window on the northeast side of the east room was converted to a door, and a closet was added to this room. Probably also dating from the 1930s, the original flooring of the first floor was replaced or covered with narrow board flooring, while the cellar floor was raised with concrete and covered with linoleum. Ceiling heights have been changed, and the wooden vestibule wall appears to have been added. In more recent years free-standing wood shelving was added to the first floor rooms.

7. The only name of a craftsman associated with the building of the Brewer's House is that of a mason named Wilkinson who had worked in Salem. A March 28, 1803 entry from the Bethabara Committee Minutes says that Wilkinson had been promised employment on the building of the house by Br. Heinrich Blum. Plans are not known to exist, although the building of the house is described in several entries in the Bethabara Records for 1803. (See attached translations by C. Daniel Crews.)
8. Several old photographs of the Brewer's House are on file in the Moravian Archives. These include a 1918 photo and what appear to be "before and after" photos taken at the time of remodelling in the late 1930s.
9. The Brewer's House has always been owned by the Moravian Church.

1803           The Brewer's House was built for distiller Hermann Buttner to replace his previous living quarters which had been destroyed by fire along with the distillery on December 2, 1802. Buttner, his wife Elisabeth, and their three children had moved from Friedland to Bethabara on June 1, 1802 so that Butner could take charge of the still house, or distillery (Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, vol. 6, p. 2699 [hereinafter referred to as Records with page number]). Records imply that some of the stone walls surviving from the earlier building were probably reused in the building of the new brewer's residence. (Records, vol. 6, p.

**BREWER'S HOUSE, cont'd.**

2714; Crews translations). The house was to measure 34 1/2 x 28 feet and was to be separate from the distillery (Records, vol. 6, p. 2736).

- 1807 By 1807 the distillery was no longer as profitable as it had once been, but the Bethabara Committee decided to continue it on a smaller scale. Buttner left the distillery but remained in Bethabara. He moved to another house and planned to work as a cooper, turner, and wagon-maker (Records, vol. 6, p. 2902). Taking Buttner's place at the distillery was Johann Christian Fockel, who came to Bethabara from Salem to run the brewery and also start a tanyard (Records, vol. 6, p. 2892). The reference to Fockel's arrival in 1807 was the last entry in the published Records of the Moravians concerning the Bethabara distillery.
- 1814 Fockel returned to the Salem area to live. (Records, vol. 7, p. 3230). The distillery had probably ceased operations by that time, although this is not certain.
- 1814-late 1930s What happened to the Brewer's House during this period is not clear. It remained in church ownership, and it is assumed that it was rented out to various people.
- ca. 1938 The Brewer's House was upgraded for use as the parsonage of the Bethabara Moravian Church. At this time various changes were made, including the construction of the rear addition (see #6 above).
- ca. 1953 A new parsonage was built, and the Brewer's House was once again rented out for residential purposes for more than a decade.
- 1968 When Historic Bethabara Park was established, and for the next two decades, the Brewer's House was used by the museum for exhibits, visitor services, and administrative offices.
- 1988 The new Visitor Center opened, and the Brewer's House was subsequently used for museum-related storage, the museum store, and occasional housing for archaeologists.
10. The Brewer's House was originally used as a residence (Records of the Moravians). Today it is a museum building within Historic Bethabara Park, although it is not open for tours. It has never been moved.

## BREWER'S HOUSE, cont'd.

11. The Brewer's House is historically significant because it is the only surviving building associated with brewing and distilling in Wachovia, a place where this was an important industry during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The first distillery in Bethabara was constructed in 1756--only three years after the establishment of the community. It was operated seasonally and could produce over twenty-one hundred gallons of brandy during a winter. Wine and beer were also produced. The original log structure was replaced in 1778 with a new distillery constructed of stone and brick. Measuring 66 x 36 feet, it was one of the largest buildings in Bethabara. It also served as the residence for the brewer and his family. When fire destroyed this building in 1802, a new home for the brewer was built almost immediately, and the distillery continued in a neighboring building which was probably enlarged. Although by this time the distillery was far less profitable than in earlier years, the Moravian Church leaders allowed the operation to continue for the sake of Bethabara. Distilling was an important surviving trade in the community which had become primarily agricultural in nature after the exodus of many of the trades people and craftsmen to Salem in the 1760s and 1770s. The 1803 Brewer's House is not only the sole surviving building representative of this aspect of life in Bethabara, it is also the only structure associated with brewing and distilling in the Moravian settlements of North Carolina. (Sources: Mark R. Barnes, "Draft National Historic Landmark Study for Bethabara," U. S. Department of the Interior, 1994; Claudia R. Colhoun, "Bethabara Project: the Brewer's House and Distillery," 1988; Durward Williams and Paul Hodulik, "The Brewer's House," 1993.)

The Brewer's House is architecturally significant because it is one of only three surviving masonry structures in Bethabara dating from the community's second quarter century of development. Although its 1803 date of construction places it outside Bethabara's primary period of significance as the Moravian "House of Passage" community in Wachovia, it remains a strong embodiment of the Germanic traditions expressed in eighteenth-century Moravian architecture.

12. The Brewer's House is a one-and-a-half-story masonry dwelling of functional design typical of Moravian architecture of the period. The ground story is of stone construction covered with stucco, the main story is of stucco-covered brick, and the upper gables at attic level are weatherboarded. The house has a gable roof with an off-center interior chimney. The three-bay facade has an entrance at the northwest end sheltered by a shed porch. Because of the slope of the land downward to the road, a cellar entrance is located immediately beneath the main

## BREWER'S HOUSE, cont'd.

entrance. Doors and windows of the ground and first floors have segmental-arched heads. Stone steps lead to the main entrance, and a stone retaining wall borders the front yard. A 1930s rear wing has been added to the rear of the house. The interior of the original part of the house follows a Continental plan on both the ground floor and the main floor with a long room running from front to rear to the left of the chimney and two parallel rooms running from the chimney to the southeast end of the house. Large arched fireplaces are located in the long left-hand rooms on each of these floors; smaller fireplaces are found in the corners of the parallel rooms only on the main floor. Walls are plastered and floors have been replaced or covered with twentieth-century flooring. The house has both batten and four-panel doors. The northwest half of the attic is unfinished, while the southeast half is covered with board-and-batten sheathing. Enclosed stairs to the attic and to the cellar are located in the west corner of the house. (For additional information concerning the physical character of the house, refer to the appended description of the Brewer's House from the National Register nomination for the Bethabara Historic District.)

The Brewer's House is in good condition, but it has not been restored. Although restoration is not planned for the immediate future, it is in the long-range plans as part of Historic Bethabara Park.

13. The Brewer's House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Bethabara Historic District in 1978.

It was included in the Bethabara Local Historic District ("H" zoning), which was designated in 1968.

It was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey as the Bethabara Parsonage in 1971.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

simple arched opening under a wide molded shelf set in the face of the chimney. The chimney faces, like all wall surfaces, are plastered. Rough hewn ceiling joists are exposed in the southeast room; in the northwest room these joists are finished and beaded, and a summer beam runs beneath the joists and is set into the face of the chimney. The stair begins its rise from the west corner of the southeast room and winds enclosed up the southwest face of the chimney. Beneath this stair is a small storage space reached through a door of four raised panels. Apparently a stair originally descended from this space to the cellar, though it was probably removed by the early nineteenth century.

The attic space appears originally to have been one large room divided by the large central chimney stack, and later partitioned. The cellar is divided into four rooms by load-bearing stone walls. The largest (southeast) room has a large fireplace served by the small interior gable end chimney; this room probably first served as the kitchen.

A wing extended from the left bay of the southeast rear facade; this wing has been lost and its original plan is unknown. The stone foundation of a nineteenth century addition extends from the northeast gable end of the house.

The Brewer's House

Constructed in 1803 to replace an earlier structure that burned the year before, the Brewer's House (2) exhibits strong similarity to the older Potter's House in exterior proportion and form, though there are major differences in detail and interior arrangement. The one-story-with-attic house rests on a full fieldstone foundation and is set into a gentle slope rising from front to back. Exterior walls are of brick covered with stucco; the gable ends at the attic level are weatherboarded. An off-center interior chimney pierces the peak of the gable roof. The front (southwest) elevation, like the Potter's House, has an asymmetrical three bay division, with the entrance set on the far left side. A shed porch of one bay in the width shelters the entrance; because of the height of the foundation at the front under the main entrance, the porch is two-tier, sheltering the cellar entrance directly beneath. A stone wall extending from the right of the cellar door and turning right across the front of the house is back-filled, bringing the ground level nearly to the level of the floor of the porch on the right side. The main entrance is reached from street level by steps cutting through the wall at the front of the house and approaching the porch from the right.

The northwest gable end is marked by single windows centered under the peak of the gable at the attic and main floor levels; a cellar window on this end is set off-center in the wall of the foundation slightly to the front of the house. This window was originally a door. The southeast gable end is two bays deep, with a single attic window centered above. Window and door openings (excepting attic windows) have segmental-arched heads; original windows are of six-over-six sash, and doors are batten.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

A modern frame addition extends off the rear of the house.

The interior follows a second variation of the Pennsylvania Continental plan, here consisting of three rooms about the central chimney. A tiny fourth room--a shallow vestibule at the main entrance--is partitioned off the southwest end of the narrow kitchen room; this vestibule contains an enclosed stair to the attic. The kitchen is heated by a large arched fire opening, and a stair off this room descends to the cellar underneath the attic stair. To the right of the kitchen and vestibule on the opposite side of the chimney are two rooms of equal size, divided by a brick partition parallel to the facade and tied into the chimney; each room is served by a small corner fireplace. All interior walls are plastered. The batten doors are hung in simple frames on HL or strap hinges.

The cellar follows an identical plan with the absence of a vestibule area, and the two parallel rooms are unheated. The attic is unfinished.

The Gemeinhaus (NR)

The dominant building of the Bethabara complex is the 1788 Gemeinhaus (3), previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This building is composed of two distinct sections under roofs of different height and joined at the gable ends; the taller section contains a hall and a large room with a gallery under a vaulted ceiling that houses the Moravian sanctuary; the second section, which has a gable roof with splayed eaves, shelters four rooms about a central chimney and originally served as the parsonage. The building employs the elements of design and materials--in different combinations--seen in the two nearby dwellings: fieldstone foundation, painted stucco wall surfaces to resemble cut stone, arched window and door openings, and simply finished, functional interiors. A graceful octagonal bell tower crowns the church. (See 1971 National Register nomination).

God's Acre

God's Acre (9) is reached by a footpath climbing the steep wooded hill to the southwest of the village. The cemetery is laid out in four quadrants according to the Moravian choir system, with married men in the southwest section, married women in the northwest, single men in the southeast section, and the single women in the northeast; the latter two quadrants are further divided into a section for youths and adults and one for infants. Early markers are uniformly modest, being flat slabs inscribed with name, date of death (and sometimes of birth), and numbered chronologically. Later markers of this form may include a brief epitaph. On the southern periphery of the cemetery are later monuments of various popular varieties.



# MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

4 East Bank Street    Winston-Salem    North Carolina 27101-5307

Telephone: 910-722-1742

8 December 1994

Rod Meyer  
Historic Bethabara Park

Dear Rod:

Here are translations of what I found in appropriate board and committee minutes from 1802 and 1803 regarding the construction of the stillhouse in Bethabara and related events. The printed account in *Records of the Moravians* says the Butners moved into the new house on 14 September 1803, but the Bethabara Committee minutes make no mention of construction progress etc. after what you have here. I hope this will be of some help to you in solving your puzzle. The Moravian Archives is happy to have been of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



C. Daniel Crews,  
Archivist

## Helfer Conferenz fürs Ganze

### Bethabara

Saturday the 11th of December 1802

The Brethren Reichel, Benzien, Stotz, and Clauder had come from Salem in order to deliberate on the spot (*in loco*) along with Br. Peter what could be done in the future after the burning which occurred on the 2nd of this month of the local distillery (Brandweimbrennerei) in respect to distilling (Brennerei) as well as the rebuilding of the building. After Br. Herm. Butner was spoken with in private beforehand, and the scene of the fire was inspected very minutely by the abovenamed Brethren, the following resolutions were reached:

1.) Since Br. and Sr. Herm. Butner, as well as Jac. Demuth, who up to now served in the distillery, have been placed in great privation by the fire: a motion was therefore proposed, that a collection be held for them in all our congregations here.

2.) When this collection has been gathered: it can then be decided whether Br. and Sr. Herm. Butner will be given [something] as compensation from the Diacony. Likewise, [it can then be decided] what should be due to Jac. Demuth as a share in this collection, which last will be left to Br. Peter with the Committee here to determine.

3.) For his future existence — in case he should be further inclined to remain here — the wages due him in the agreement (Accord) shall continue, since then the half profit ceases of itself.

4.) A thought that the distilling might be continued for the present in the shed (Schoppen) beside the main building, and that this shed might be able to be made suitable (aptirt) for that purpose with little expense, was examined and — because here in this country many distilleries are carried on in just this sort of building with profit — thus it was **resolved** to request this as soon as possible. With this work could be joined the clearing away (or tidying up: aufräumen) and cleaning up (or plastering over: abputzen) of the bricks in the burned house, since then Br. Herm. Butner with Jac. Demuth — if he would wish to remain longer at work here — would have sufficient work, and the outlay for his wages and Jac. Demuth's compensation could be met out of the distillery.

5.) We now came to consideration of whether the rebuilding of the burned main building should be proposed. The cost of such an undertaking was estimated at 500 Pounds; and since the ruins in any event must be cleared away (aufgeräumt) and since the rough (rauhe) walls appear to be in such a condition that there was no hesitation about setting the rest of the building on them, and it also is not necessary that that part of the second story which comes to stand over the Stillery be finished on the inside (or completed or improved: ausgebaut) or provided with windows: we were thus unanimously of the opinion that the rebuilding of the Still-house be proposed. But whether this should happen with or without the direction of the Lot (Anweisung \*) will be decided in the next meeting of the Aeltesten Conferenz.

6.) All of this was communicated to the local [Bethabara] Committee, who were called in, and they fully agreed, and only doubted whether the still standing wall of the burned building was of the quality heretofore believed, which can best be judged by masons.

7.) Br. Herm. Butner, who was now called in, declared that he was agreeable to everything that had been decided concerning him in the foregoing.

**Bethabara Committee**

**13 December 1802**

**Item Number 8**

8.) Since the local inhabitants here [in Bethbara] have clearly already contributed to the aid of our Br. and Sr. Hermann Buttner, and have done so as much as could be asked of them, therefore the collection for them [the Butners] which is planned for the near future will not take place here in the settlement.

**Bethabara Committee**

**19 December 1802**

**Item Number 5**

5.) The collection which Br. Peter gathered in Salem for Br. and Sr. Herman Buttner and Jacob Demuth was counted and came to 25 and 1/2 Dolls. From this, 21 Dolls. was awarded to Br. Herman Buttner in consideration of the fact that he had suffered a disproportionately higher loss in the burning of the distillery than had Jacob Demuth, and moreover he has a family to take care of. The remaining 4 1/2 Dolls. was awarded to Jacob Demuth, and Br. Benzien was requested to thank in our name the Brothers and Sisters in Salem for their willing and active participation in this.

**Bethabara Committee**

**18 January, 1803**

**Item Number 5**

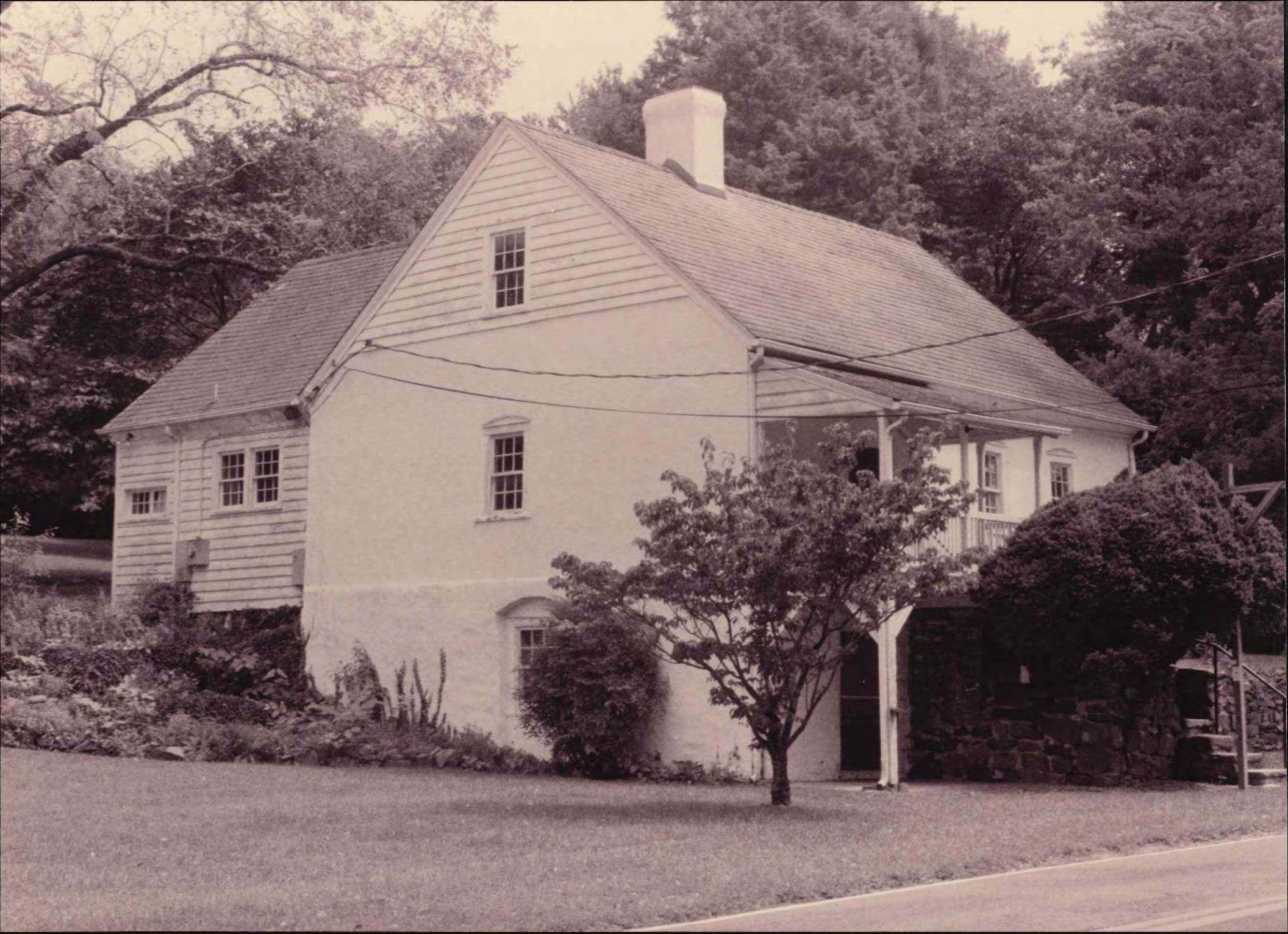
5.) An idea concerning the building needed for the distillery was offered by Br. Benzien, namely, whether one shouldn't rebuild only the part which has served for a dwelling, and continue the distilling operation in the manner in which it is set up for now, since then the roof of the shed appointed for the apple mill (Apfelmühle) would be able to be used for a place for storage (fruchtboden: can mean a granary, corn-loft, fruitery, etc.). This suggestion, to which B. Herman Buttner had already given his approval, was also very clear and satisfactory (einleuchtend) to the Brethren of the Committee, because in that way the building costs would be considerably reduced and the business could still be continued with a profit.

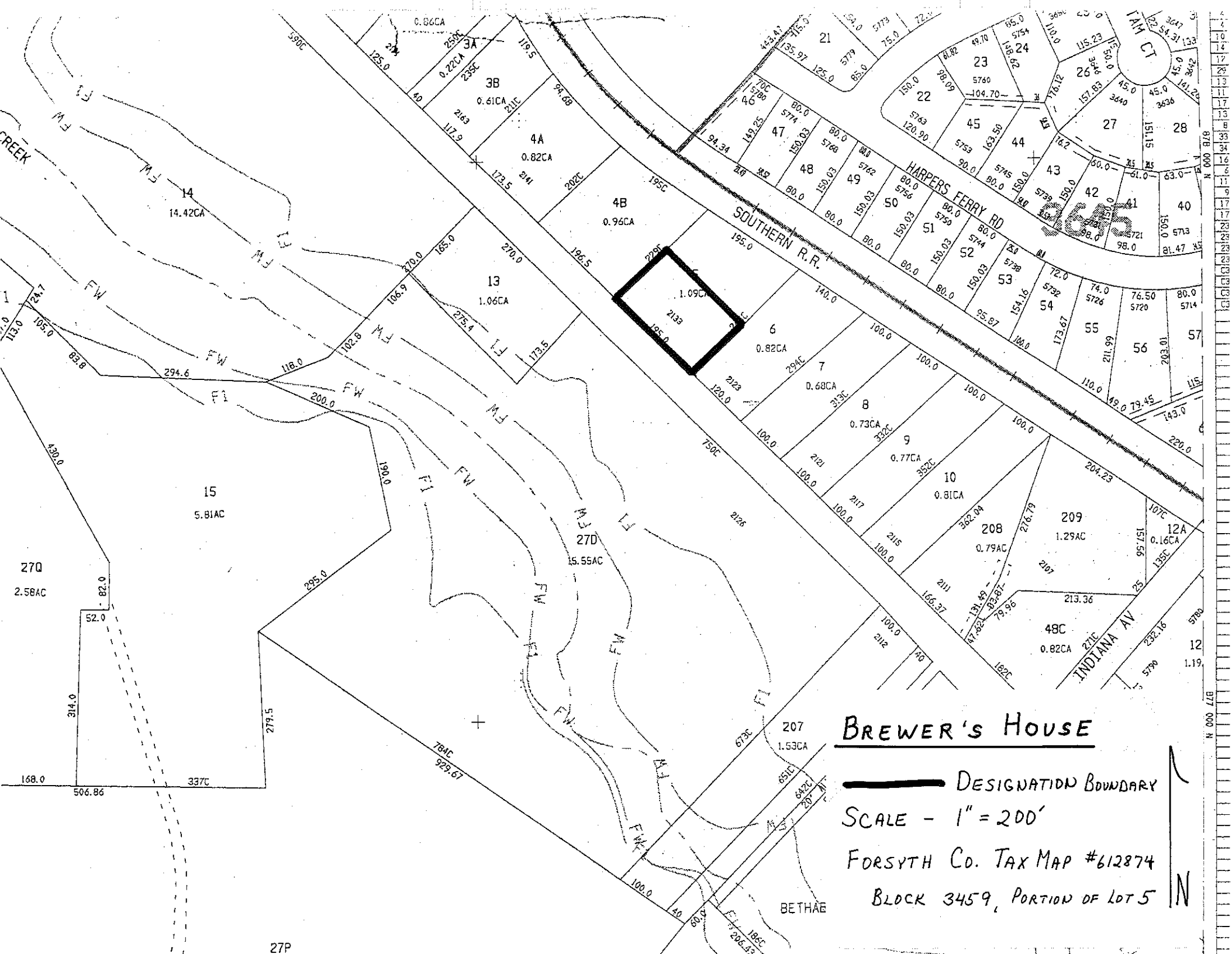
**Aeltesten Conferenz**

**30 March 1803**

**Item Number 10**

10. After Br. Gambold measured the space in connection with the Stillhouse in Bethabara, the results indicated that if the distillery were to be located in the dwelling, the latter would have to be considerably enlarged. And so it was resolved to let the distillery remain in a neighboring building (23 March, 5)





**BREWER'S HOUSE**

**—** DESIGNATION BOUNDARY

SCALE - 1" = 200'

FORSYTH CO. TAX MAP #612874

BLOCK 3459, PORTION OF LOT 5

N