

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Third House

Local Historic Landmark #2
440 S. Main St., Winston-Salem
(Original Salem Lot 51)
Construction Date: 1767
Reconstruction Date: 1969
Landmark Designation Date:
10/04/1976

The Third House was constructed in 1767 as part of Salem's initial building program. Moravian records revealed that since the house was to stand "in a lower place, arrangements were made for a workshop, kitchen and cellar in the basement, with one storey on the street." The records added that: "We are thinking of building all one-storey houses this way." While the Third House was under construction, the supply of bricks began to increase in Salem. This allowed the Moravians to discontinue the use of wattle and daub in favor of brick nogging. However, lime was still scarce, and as such, red clay had to be used as a substitute for the mortar. The nearest lime deposit was 60 miles away on the Dan River. Complicating the distance issue, the owner of the lime deposit was evidently rather difficult. The records stated: "If only the man did not go about it so lazily! We will do our best to hasten it, even if we have to buy his land!"

The Third House is almost identical to the Fourth and Fifth Houses, both of which would be constructed shortly after the Third House. It is a 1½-story building that is half-timbered with brick and clay nogging. The house also features a side-gable roof with flared eaves. John Valentine Beck, a



gunstocker, was the first resident, and he lived there from 1772-1776. After Beck, a series of occupants lived in the house. Reportedly, the cellar housed sick soldiers during the Revolutionary War. From 1833-1837, Henry Winkler lived in the house and he operated a confectionary shop from the residence. By this time, it had become apparent that drainage on the lot was a continuous problem; Winkler's rent was reduced to compensate for a drainage ditch that had to be dug across the property. In 1889, the house was raised and fill deposited to lift the elevation of the grade around the house to prepare for construction of the streetcar system. Sometime between 1889 and 1907, the Third House was demolished. In 1969, the house was reconstructed based on archaeological evidence and documents from the Moravian Archives.

Today the Third House is privately occupied.



This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>