

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Fourth House

**Local Historic Landmark #3**  
**438 S. Main St., Winston-Salem**  
**(Original Salem Lot 50)**  
**Construction Date: 1768**  
**Restoration Date: 1966**  
**Landmark Designation Date:**  
**10/04/1976**

Built in 1768, the Fourth House is the oldest surviving building in Salem. Additionally, it was the first building constructed using masons from outside the Moravian community. Up until the time the Fourth House was built, Bethabara's and Salem's masons completed all masonry work in the town.

In 1772, four years after its completion, Charles Holder and his family first occupied the house. Holder was a saddler and while considered by the Moravian records to be a good-natured man, he was continuously behind in his work and always in debt. Holder lived at the Fourth House until his death in 1808. A mid-19th century owner of the house was Edward Belo, a cabinetmaker. The house did not suit Belo's tastes; shortly after purchasing the property, he decided to build something completely different in style, specifically the grand Greek Revival-style house located across S. Main Street. As with adjacent properties, the Fourth House was moved from its original site to make way for the streetcar system in 1889-1890.



The Fourth House is a 1½-story, half-timbered structure with brick and clay nogging. The front elevation features a paneled wood door and two six-over-six windows. The Fourth House was one of six half-timbered structures built along the west side of Main Street, and it is the only one to have survived.

In 1936, the Forsyth County Committee of the Society of Colonial Dames purchased the property, and then made a large number of alterations. Once doing so, the organization specified that the house be occupied only by the most "cultured tenants." In 1966, Old Salem, Inc. leased the Fourth House and moved the building back to its original location. Later alterations were removed and the house was restored to its 1768 appearance.

Today the Fourth House is privately occupied.



*Fourth House in Salem, Date Unknown*  
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens



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