

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Lick-Boner House

**Local Historic Landmark #6
(Original Salem Lot 73)
512 Salt St., Winston-Salem
Construction Date: 1787-1794
Restoration Date: 1951-1952
Landmark Designation Date:
10/04/1976**

For almost thirty years the Lick-Boner House was the only house on Salt Street. Built by Salem carpenter, Martin Lick, the structure represents one of the earliest Germanic architectural styles. It is the only such example located in Salem. As a young man, Lick worked under master joiner Frederick Beck and later master cabinetmaker Johannes Krauss. When building his own house, Lick did not consult with Salem's master mason Johann Gottlob Krause, as was customary in Salem. Rather, Lick hired an apprentice, Michael Seitz, to help. Work proceeded very slowly and when Lick and his family moved into the house in 1787, there was much work remaining. The Moravian records indicate that the house was finally completed in 1794, along with several outbuildings that included a bake oven and smokehouse. Eventually Lick's debts forced him to give up his duties in Salem and move to Bethania, where he remained until 1811. Johann Leinbach, a shoemaker, bought the house in 1795 and added the lean-to shop addition to the north elevation. In addition to his shoemaking profession, Leinbach began to trade extensively in salt, thus giving the street its name.



Lick-Boner House, Date Unknown
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens



In 1820, he moved his salt storage shed, which had been built across the street in 1815, to a site just north of his house. Leinbach died in 1838, and the house passed to his son-in-law, John Chitty. Chitty sold the house to Thomas Jacob Boner in 1840. Boner apprenticed as a printer in the Salem Press office and eventually became editor. Later, Boner published his own newspaper, the *Salem Observer*. While highly regarded, he was not financially successful and moved away to become the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Later, he moved to Washington, D.C. to work in the Government Printing Office.

The Lick-Boner House features a plain log façade and tiled roof. The front elevation fenestration consists of a single unshuttered six-over-six window and a herringbone wood door with a three-light transom. The lean-to shop addition has a second herringbone door with a single window.

Following Boner's ownership of the house, it was occupied by several owners until acquired by Norman P. Stone in 1920. In 1950, Stone donated the house to Old Salem, Inc., which completed its restoration in 1952.

Today the Lick-Boner House is privately occupied.



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