

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Christoph Vogler House

Local Historic Landmark #8

710 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 65)

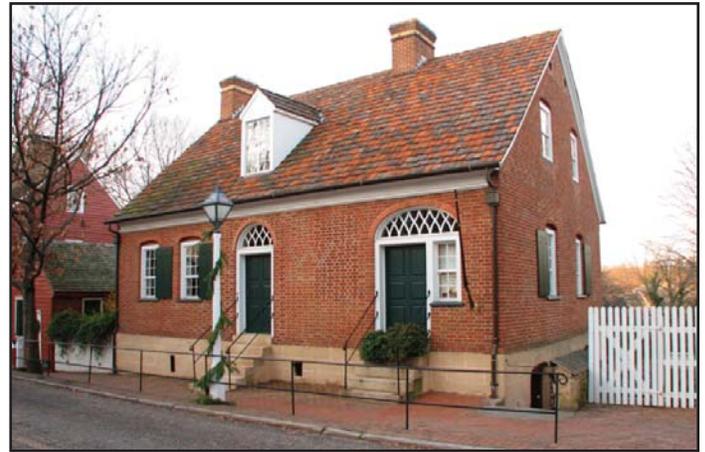
Construction Date: 1797

Restoration Date: 1955

Landmark Designation Date: 10/04/1976

Christoph Vogler, a native of Broadbay, Maine, came with his family to Wachovia in 1770, when he was a child. The family settled within the Moravian country congregation of Friedland, where other families from the same area of Maine had moved. Vogler moved to Salem to work as a farmer's apprentice, working for George Stockburger, overseer of the Town of Salem's farm. However, at the age of 19, Vogler began the study of gunsmithing; by 22 he had achieved the rank of master gunsmith. Interestingly, it took some time for the Moravians to accept Vogler. His first application for Church membership was denied; the Moravian records stated, "...his way of life has not been so very good for some time and we could not give him this permission with joy...." However, with his maturity, Vogler gained acceptance and became respected not only for his artistry as a gunsmith, but for his contributions to civic life as well.

In 1797, after Vogler married, he hired the master mason Johann Gottlob Krause to build his house. Krause was also a master potter who had trained in Bethabara. The Moravian Church declared Krause a master mason in 1784 after only three years of apprenticeship. Krause combined his



pottery knowledge of glazes and clay with his masonry skills to produce decorative bricks laid in intricate and elegant patterns. Architectural experts consider the Christoph Vogler House to be Krause's finest work. Inscribed on the south gable are Krause's initials formed with dark header bricks in a similar fashion as the herring-bone patterns that appear on both the north and south gables. Krause's outstanding bonding techniques, his distinctive use of brick patterns, the rubbed-brick arches over the windows and doors, and the double-molded water table along the top of the foundation are all features of an unusually high quality of workmanship. Additionally, the unbalanced front façade is typical of Salem's early period, when craftsmen used their residences as both home and workshop. In the case of the Christoph Vogler House, the northern portion was the gunshop; the southern portion served as Vogler's residence.

Christoph Vogler remained in the house for only three years. In 1800, he moved to a house across Tar Branch where the prior owner had built a dam for a mill; Vogler used the water power to bore and rifle his gun barrels. Over the years, the property was occupied by a variety of owners. During the 1950s, Old Salem, Inc. restored the property to its original appearance.

Today the Christoph Vogler House is privately occupied.



Dedication of Christoph Vogler House in Old Salem, 1955
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection



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