

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Schroeter House & Wash-Bake House

Local Historic Landmark #11

520 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 57)

Construction Date: 1805 (House), 1809 (Shop)

Reconstruction Date: 1968 (House), 1971 (Shop)

Landmark Designation Date: 10/04/1976

Johann Gottlieb Schroeter came to Salem in 1800 from Silesia (in the Czech Republic). He became the master tailor of Salem and originally practiced his trade in the Single Brothers House. In 1803, Schroeter married Sister Mary Ann Peddycoard. For two years, they lived as residents of what was known as the “Two-Story House” prior to beginning construction of their own residence.

In late 1805, the Schroeters moved into their new home. According to Church records, it appears that some of the materials used in the construction of the house were salvaged from a laundry building in Salem that had been dismantled. It is possible that using salvaged materials may have resulted in the house having a lower eave line than what was typical in Salem during the same period. In 1823, Schroeter added a dining room and stove to the rear of the house.

When Schroeter died in February of 1832, Benjamin Warner, a tobacconist, became the second owner. Warner added a tobacco shop to the south of the building, adding a second entrance to the house for the business.

Over the years, the house had a succession of owners, and by 1913, the property had been subdivided. In 1916,



Old Johnson Home (Schroeter House), Main Street, c. 1890-1915
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens



Dr. J.B. Wittington bought the Main Street portion, removed the original house and built a house known as the “Wittington Cottage” in its place.

In 1957, Old Salem, Inc. acquired the back lot, which fronted on Salt Street, and removed a two-story duplex. During 1966, Old Salem, Inc. acquired the Main Street property where Whittington’s Cottage was still standing. The following year, Old Salem sold both lots to G. Wilson Douglas, Jr., who demolished the cottage and reconstructed the original house in 1968 based on archaeological evidence, historic photographs and written records. The wash-bake house (originally erected on the property in 1809) was subsequently reconstructed in 1971.

The Schroeter House is a 1½-story, weatherboard frame house on a raised stuccoed cellar. The front elevation features two entry doors with rectangular four-light transoms. The side-gabled roof with flared eaves is finished in tile. The Wash-Bake House is a simple one-story frame building on a stuccoed foundation. The façade features a single herringbone wood entry door.

Today the Schroeter House and the Schroeter Wash-Bake House are privately occupied.



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