

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Zevely House

Local Historic Landmark #13
901 W. Fourth St., Winston-Salem
Construction Date: 1815
Relocation Date: 1974
Restoration Date: 1974-1975
Landmark Designation Date:
10/04/1976

The Moravian records state that in July 1797, "...an outside boy, Vannimmen Zively by name, has come for awhile to Br. Wohlfohrt (Welfare) in the cabinet shop. Before her end his mother expressed the wish that when she died he might be brought to the Brethren." Zevely (the more common spelling) served as an apprentice and then journeyman cabinetmaker in the shop of William Eldridge, and finally became master of the cabinet shop in the Single Brothers' House in Salem. He served in this position until 1809, when he married Johanna Sophia Shober, daughter of a prominent businessman in Salem and the owner of a great deal of property.

The same year he purchased 160 acres from his father-in-law that was located on the "Old Town Road," today's Oak Street. In 1815, Zevely built



his house on this property; the house is the oldest remaining building remaining in what was the town of Winston. In 1974, due to endangerment from decay, the Zevely House was moved from Oak Street to its current location on W. Fourth Street within the West End Historic District.

Typical of German-influenced Moravian structures, the Zevely House is a two-story, Flemish bond brick structure of simple design with a gable roof, interior end chimneys, a slightly asymmetrical three-bay façade, and a three-room plan. Once relocated in 1974, the main section of the house was restored on both the exterior and interior, and a conjectural front porch and compatible rear shed wing were added. The relocation and restoration of the Zevely House have had a minimal effect upon its integrity and have ensured the preservation of the building. Additionally, while the Zevely House is of an earlier period than other buildings in the West End Historic District, it both complements and is complemented by its present surroundings.

Today the Zevely House is in use as an upscale restaurant.



Moving the Zevely House from Oak Street to the corner of West Fourth and Summit Streets, 1974
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>