

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Herbst House

**Local Historic Landmark #18**  
**511 S. Main St., Winston-Salem**  
**(Original Salem Lot 33)**  
**Construction Date: 1821**  
**Restoration Date: 2003**  
**Landmark Designation Date: 10/04/1976**

Heinrich Herbst was a saddler and a candle-maker; when he submitted his house plans for approval in 1820, the Moravian Church described the building as “something absolutely new in Salem.” The two-story house was built over a full cellar story that opened onto the street.



Herbst was a man that completed his work faithfully and abided strictly by Church rules. In 1835, at the time of his death at the age of 42, he was “esteemed in the congregation as a beloved and sensible man.” His widow lived in the house until 1843, when it was acquired at a public sale for \$1,000 to be used as a dwelling for retired brethren and sisters. It served this purpose until the late 1850s, when it was purchased by Charles Brietz.

In 1890, the house was moved back from the street approximately 19 feet, likely due to the change in street grade to accommodate the streetcar line. At that time the house was significantly altered into a typical Victorian residence.

The Herbst House is a two-story, frame house with a parged full cellar and features a two-story porch over the sidewalk.

The house remained in the Brietz family until the late 1980s, when Old Salem, Inc. acquired it. In 2002, the house was moved back to its original location and a full restoration to its 1821 appearance was completed by Old Salem, Inc. in 2003. The house was placed on its original foundation after a thorough archaeological study; its restoration was based on written documents and a physical examination of the structure and photographic evidence.

Today the Herbst House is used by Old Salem Museums and Gardens as office space.



*Herbst House in Salem, c. 1890*  
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>