

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Jacob Siewers House

Local Historic Landmark #31

823 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 21)

Construction Date: 1845

Restoration Date: 1971

Landmark Designation Date: 10/04/1976

The Jacob Siewers House replaced an earlier two-story frame house and separate shop constructed on the lot by cabinetmaker Thomas (Wohlfarth) Welfare in 1820. In 1827, the property passed to David Clewell, a bookbinder and shoemaker, who moved to Tennessee in 1833. The house and shop were purchased by Jacob Siewers, a former employee of Welfare.

In 1845, Siewers replaced the original house and shop with the house that stands on the lot today. Jacob Siewers sold the property two years later, after accepting a call to be a missionary. He sold the house to Dietrich Tewes, who owned the property for four years and then sold it to Elis Conrad in 1851. The house was deeded to Mrs. Amanda Lemly in 1859. In 1887, the house became a home for aged women.

The 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps show a deep rear ell and porch, along with a woodhouse that had been added to the property. The woodhouse disappeared by 1917, and the house was identified on the 1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps as the "Salem Home for Infirm Widows." The house was expanded in 1928, and stretched to the rear of



the lot with a structure facing S. Church Street. By the late 1960s, the home closed due to strict government regulations regarding infirmaries.

Today, the Jacob Siewers House is a two-story, frame house on a partially exposed cellar and is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style in Salem. The façade features an attached single-story porch with Tuscan columns supporting a flat deck with wood railing. In front of the porch is a stuccoed stoop with stone steps running down the stoop's north side. The front door is paneled with a two-light transom and sidelights, molded surrounds and corner blocks. Front façade windows are six-over-six flanked by raised panels and set within molded surrounds with corner blocks. The exterior end chimneys have stepped shoulders and are early examples of this form in Salem.

The Jacob Siewers House was restored in 1971 to its 1846 appearance based on documentary evidence.

Today the Jacob Siewers House is privately occupied.



Jacob Siewers House, Date Unknown
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>