

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Nathaniel Macon Kerner House

Local Historic Landmark #43

312 South Main St., Kernersville

Construction Date: 1857

Landmark Designation Date: 09/07/1982

Nathaniel Macon Kerner was the grandson of Joseph Körner, for whom Kernersville is named. (The name Körner was anglicized by some branches of the family during the 19th century.) The Nathaniel Macon Kerner House was built in 1857 by John Frederick Körner for his son, Nathaniel Macon, as a wedding gift. When the house was constructed, it was adjacent to a tannery, where John Frederick, and later, Nathaniel, manufactured harnesses, saddles, and shoes. A sawmill and cotton gin were added later. During the Civil War, the tannery grew quite large when leather items were made there for the Confederate Army.

Believed to be the second oldest residence still standing in Kernersville, the Nathaniel Macon Kerner House is a Greek Revival-influenced brick dwelling. It retains its large six-over-six windows and three-bay façade. Exterior stepped-shouldered chimneys rise at either end of the main block. The Greek Revival style was a popular architectural style in the mid 19th century in North Carolina. While there were few purely academic interpretations of the style, it manifested itself in rural areas by details such as



large windows, heavy and square proportions, and interior details such as plain, post and lintel mantels with wide friezes, and two-paneled doors. Most Greek Revival house plans featured a central hall. There are few Greek Revival-influenced buildings on Kernersville's South Main Street, which is the earliest residential area of the town. More prevailing in Kernersville was the Italianate style, popular during the 1870s and 1880s, when the town's boom period occurred.

Today the Nathaniel Macon Kerner House is privately occupied.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Kernersville South Main Street  
Historic District Nomination

<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0716.pdf>



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