

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Ebert-Reich House

Local Historic Landmark #50

731 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 24)

Construction Date: 1793

Restoration Date: 1938

Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

Johann George Ebert, of Friedberg, built his log house in 1793 with the grudging permission of the Church, as a home and workshop. Ebert planned to work in Salem as a woodturner; however, he had difficulty getting along with his fellow townsmen and was asked to leave in 1796. Johann Christoph Reich rented the house shortly after he married Catharina Transou. Reich purchased the house in 1801 and placed weatherboard siding on the house the same year. By 1815, Reich, a coppersmith, had built a workshop to the rear of his house. After Reich's death in 1824, his widow and their son, Jacob, continued to live in the house and operate the business. In 1843, Jacob added a portico to the front of the house. Likely, the second story of the house was added at approximately the same time.



Ebert-Reich House, 1937
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files



In the late 19th century, the house passed into the ownership of Jacob's son, William Augustus Reich. A tinsmith, Reich, became known as "Gus Rich, the Wizard of the Blue Ridge," performing magic acts throughout the region. At the turn of the 20th century, the house left Reich's ownership, and was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. William K. Hoyt.

The Ebert-Reich House is a 2½-story wood frame over an original log structure on a stone cellar with a tile roof and interior end chimneys. A pedimented portico with pairs of simple columns covers the single-leaf front door.

The house was restored in 1938.

Today the Ebert Reich House is privately occupied.



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