

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## John Vogler House

Local Historic Landmark #52

700 S. Main Street, Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 64)

Construction Date: 1819

Restoration Date: 1954

Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

In 1770, the Vogler family moved from Maine to the Moravian's Friedland country congregation. John Vogler was born in 1783; sadly he was orphaned by the age of 12. Vogler then lived with his maternal grandfather and worked with his uncle, the gunsmith Christoph Vogler (Local Historic Landmark #8). In 1803, Vogler joined the Church and lived in the Single Brothers' House (Local Historic Landmark #46) while continuing to work for his uncle. Three years later, he was making silverware and repairing clocks; he moved these operations into the Brothers' House in 1809. He continued to make clocks, but left clock repairs to Lewis Eberhardt (Local Historic Landmark #28), because the Church was worried about Vogler being in direct competition with Eberhardt's clock repair business. Nonetheless, Vogler became known as the most talented silversmith in Salem and was a leader in the community.

By 1814, Vogler expressed interest in Salem Lot 64 and the house upon it, which was occupied by Anna Catharina Reuter Ernst (Local Historic Landmark #4). Two years later, he purchased the property and moved the Anna Catharina House to the rear of the lot.

Vogler's house was finished in 1819, only a few months after his marriage. The John Vogler House was the first privately-owned, two-story brick house built since the



*John Vogler House, 1882*

Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens via Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)



construction of the Samuel Benjamin Vierling House (Local Historic Landmark #10) in 1802. Vogler built this house in imitation of the many fine examples of Federal-style architecture he had seen on occasional trips to and from Pennsylvania. His house signaled a decisive break with the Germanic architectural tradition. Suddenly Salem's main street had taken on many of the characteristics of a typical English settlement. The Vogler House displays the first use of a brick cornice and other architectural features not traditionally Moravian – the flat brick arches over the windows being the most unusual example. The prominent hood over the main entrance contains a painted clockface, which was Vogler's trademark.

John Vogler died as a widower in 1881. The John Vogler House remained in the Vogler family until it was given to Old Salem, Inc. in 1952 by John and Christina's great granddaughter, Pauline Bahnson Gray. She and other descendants provided for the restoration of the house in 1954 and many of the Vogler artifacts. The house still contains about 70% of the furniture that belonged to the Voglers.

Today the John Vogler House is an exhibit building for Old Salem Museums and Gardens.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

<http://www.oldsalem.org/vogler-house.html>



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