

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Denke House

Local Historic Landmark #57

498 Salt St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 75)

Construction Date: 1832

Restoration Date: 1970

Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

Christian Frederick Denke, a minister and watercolorist, was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1775. He arrived in Salem with his first wife in 1820. Later, Denke was called to serve two of the Moravian country congregations - Hope and Friedberg. Upon his retirement in 1832, Denke built his home at the corner of what is today Factory Row and Bank Street. He moved into the house early the next year. Denke died in 1838, leaving the home to his wife, Maria, who continued to live in the house until her death in 1868. The house was then acquired by a succession of owners.

The Denke House is a 1½-story, frame building on a partially exposed stuccoed cellar. The house has a symmetrical façade with a one-story porch that has a wood-shingled shed roof and square chamfered posts. The center wood-paneled Dutch door features a four-light transom, flanked by nine-over-six windows with shutters. Matching interior end chimneys complete the façade.



In 1970, the Denke House was purchased and relocated approximately two blocks east, to its current location, where it was restored. This action was not without controversy and debate; some believed that doing so would undermine the authenticity of the restoration. However, the house was falling into ruin and threatened with demolition. Thus the move to Salt Street was approved. The site on which the Denke House now sits originally served primarily for growing fruit trees and as grazing land.

Today the Denke House is privately occupied.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

<http://images.lib.ncsu.edu/luna/servlet/view/search?q=Denke+House&sort=Division+Sequence+Number%2CPageSequenceNumber%2CFilename>



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