

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Charles A. Cooper Shop

Local Historic Landmark #58

419 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 41)

Construction Date: 1834

Reconstruction Date: 1979

Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

Charles Alexander Cooper was born in Germanton, NC, in 1810. He moved to Salem and became a furniture maker and house painter. In addition to his professional life, Cooper was also active with Salem's various committees and organizations. He served on the Aufseher Collegium (one of the Church's governing boards), the school committee, and the Poor Society. He served for a time as Fire Inspector, and was assigned responsibility for all repairs necessary for the Church and for securing wood for the Salem ministers. Cooper died in 1866 at the age of 55.

In 1834, Cooper received permission to build a shop on Main Street, which he staked out on August 4th of that year. Construction of the shop was completed by the end of 1834. In 1852, Cooper raised the shop to two stories. The shop is representative of a transition that took place in Salem between 1820 and 1840, when detached shops began to be the norm, as opposed to them being located within the residences themselves. Based on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the Cooper Shop was demolished between 1912 and 1917.



*Charles Cooper Shop shown to far right of photograph, 1882*  
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens via Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)



The Charles A. Cooper Shop is a two-story, two-bay, front-gable weatherboard frame structure on a parged foundation. Wooden steps access the unprotected single leaf paneled wood door. Windows are nine-over-six and the roof is finished in wood shingles.

In 1979, the shop was reconstructed based on archaeological research which located the building's footings, as well as evidence found in archival materials including 19th century photographs.

Today the Charles A. Cooper Shop is privately occupied.



*Reconstruction of the Cooper Shop in Salem, 1978*  
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens via Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)



*Charles Cooper Shop shown to far right, c. 1870-1882*  
Courtesy of Old Salem Museum and Gardens



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