John Siewers House

Local Historic Landmark #60
832 S. Main St., Winston-Salem
(Original Salem Lot 102)
Construction Date: 1844
Restoration Date: Ongoing at present
Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

Originally, this lot was part of the Salem Tavern property (Local Historic Landmark #48). It was separated from that property in 1839 and released to Edwin Beitel (Local Historic Landmark #30). John Daniel Siewers then assumed Beitel’s lease. Siewers had come to Salem from Pennsylvania in 1833 to live and work with his older brother Jacob, a cabinetmaker (Local Historic Landmark #31). At Siewers’ request, his new lot was enlarged to accommodate the construction of the Siewers Cabinet Shop (Local Historic Landmark #61) and provide storage for his materials.

Siewers constructed the present house on this lot in 1844. That same year, Siewers married Rebecca Paulina Shober, who died during the birth of their son, Nathaniel, in November of 1845. Siewers lived in the house until 1874, when he sold the house and the lot, and moved. However, he retained ownership of the shop until his death in 1902.

The Siewers House is a 1½-story brick structure with a full-story exposed cellar with a pedimented portico with paired columns. The portico rests on a brick stoop with stone steps on the north side running parallel to the façade. The single-leaf center paneled entry door has a four-light rectangular transom. Nine-over-six windows with paneled shutters are found on the first story; six-over-six windows with shutters are located on the cellar level. Below the wood-shingled roof is a molded brick cornice. Interior end chimneys with corbelled caps complete the symmetrical façade.

The Siewers House is currently undergoing a sensitive restoration.

Today the John Siewers House is privately occupied.

Siewers House in Salem, c. 1950
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens via Digital Forsyth (http://www.digitalforsyth.org)