

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Siewers Shop

Local Historic Landmark #61

15 W. Walnut St., Winston-Salem

(Original Salem Lot 102)

Construction Date: 1842

Landmark Designation Date: 12/06/1982

In 1818, John Siewers (Local Historic Landmark #60) was born in Niesky, Germany. He came to Salem in 1833 to live under the supervision of his brother, Jacob (Local Historic Landmark #31). John Siewers was granted permission in 1840 to open a joiner (carpenter) shop. According to the Moravian records, when he took possession of Lot 102, Siewers asked for an extension of the lot because he found it “too small to operate his joiner shop there.” Siewers’ request was granted, and in January 1842, Siewers and his brother, Jacob, formed a trade partnership. They immediately made plans to construct a new cabinet shop, according to the Moravian records, “30 by 40 feet and two-storied.”

It is believed that the Siewers brothers may have studied cabinetmaking from Thomas Day, the well-known African-American cabinetmaker from Milton, North Carolina. John Siewers was considered by Salem’s community members and leaders to be a “good citizen” who deserved the “utmost respect.” The Siewers brothers operated their business from the shop for many years.



By the 1830s-1840s, Salem craftsmen were beginning to construct separate shops rather than conduct business from a room in their homes. It is in this respect that the Siewers Shop is significant.

The original portion of the shop was a two-story brick structure; in 1857, a frame addition was completed. The cross-gabled building includes a front porch and two-over-two windows on the first and second floors. The roof is of standing seam tin.

Today the Siewers Shop is privately occupied.



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