Hylehurst was constructed in 1884 for John W. Fries. Fries was a prominent local businessman and inventor, and made significant contributions to the legal, civic, and religious activities of the community. At various times, Fries was president of Fries Manufacturing Company and Arista Mills (Local Historic Landmark #36), Peoples National Bank, Salem Cemetery Company, and Fealty Building and Loan Association. He served as a Director of the North Carolina Midland Railroad, Wachovia Loan and Trust Company, and has been credited with several inventions relating to the cotton milling process.

John Fries also served as a Town of Salem Commission member, a Forsyth County Board of Commissioners member, a Superior Court judge, Winston-Salem Foundation chairman, and Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce president. Additionally, Fries served on President William McKinley's Monetary Commission, which met in Washington in September 1897. Fries married Agnes Sophia de Schweinitz on October 21, 1870.

Hylehurst was designed in the Queen Anne style by Henry Hudson Holly, a prominent New York architect. The three-story frame structure stands facing south on a lot that originally included the entire block bounded by S. Cherry Street, Brookstown Avenue, S. Marshall Street, and High Street. It stands in view of the Brookstown Mill complex (Local Historic Landmark #36), reflecting the longstanding integration of industrial and residential uses. Hylehurst is one of the most high-style, turn-of-the-20th-century dwellings remaining in Winston-Salem.

Hylehurst stands as a physical reminder of the significance of the Fries family to Winston-Salem and the state of North Carolina, and is the only North Carolina residence identified as being designed by New York architect Henry Hudson Holly.

Fries lived in the house until his death in 1927, when he willed Hylehurst to his daughter, Adelaide, who was a historian and archivist of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, from 1911 until her death in 1949.

Today Hylehurst is no longer owned by the Fries family. It has been sensitively rehabilitated for office use.
Want to know more?

Hylehurst National Register Nomination


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

Mary (right) and Adelaide Fries (left), c. 1891
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens

John William Fries, c. 1875
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Agnes Fries (nee de Schweinitz), c. 1880
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens

Hylehurst, Date Unknown
Courtesy of Scott Venable