

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Dr. John Francis Shaffner House

Local Historic Landmark #71

428 S. Main St., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1873

Landmark Designation Date: 12/07/1987

Dr. John Francis Shaffner was born in Salem in 1838. During the Civil War, Shaffner served in the Confederate Army as a surgeon and returned to Salem following the Battle of Appomattox. Upon his return, Shaffner continued his medical practice in Salem. He was also a leader in civic activities, serving as a mayor of Salem, President of the Salem Water Supply Company, and Vice-President of the Winston-Salem Building and Loan.

The Shaffner House was designed by Elias A. Vogler, son of John Vogler (Local Historic Landmark #52). Salem's newspaper, the *People's Press*, reported in 1873: "Mr. E.A. Vogler has shown us a draft of Dr. Shaffner's new dwelling which will be put up during the summer. Mr. Vogler is the architect, and will superintend the construction in every detail. The building will be of brick, two stories high, with an elegant French mansard roof, covered with ornamental slate. Altogether it promises to be the handsomest private dwelling in town, and situated on Main Street." Later in the year, the newspaper reported that the house, with its mansard roof, had been completed.

The Shaffner House is a physical reminder of the beginning of Winston and Salem's period of growth and prosperity following political reconstruction. It exemplifies the



John Francis Shaffner House, Date Unknown  
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files

transition of Salem from a theocratic community to a thriving industrial town. Additionally, the house is an impressive example of the continued evolution of architectural styles in Salem during the late 19th century, reflecting acceptance by the Moravian community of national and international architectural styles and trends.

The Dr. John Francis Shaffner House is the finest extant example of the Second Empire style in Forsyth County. The brick, five-bay, 2½-story structure is crowned by a dominant bell-cast mansard roof with hooded dormers. The wooden eaves of the roof rest on heavy, paired Italianate brackets. The main entry features a double-leaf door with a colored, etched trabeated surround. Elaborately decorated lintels cap each window. Two alterations to the house were completed in 1913: a northern wing and a front open veranda supported by four ionic columns. In 1944, the rear porch area was enclosed.

Today the Dr. John Francis Shaffner House is privately occupied.



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