

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Cicero Francis Lowe House

Local Historic Landmark #74

204 W. Cascade Ave., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1911

Landmark Designation Date: 04/17/1989

Cicero Francis Lowe was born in 1868, to C.F. and Mary Thompson Lowe. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1897, he married Margaret Robbins and, in 1908, they moved with their two children to Winston from Monroe, North Carolina. Ultimately, Lowe became a prominent businessman, who became Secretary, and later Vice President of the Brown-Rogers Hardware Company, one of the most successful hardware businesses in the South.

When they first moved to Winston, Lowe and his family lived at 408 W. Fourth Street. Several years later, Lowe bought a one-acre lot on the southwest corner of S. Broad Street and W. Cascade Avenue (in the Washington Park neighborhood) for \$3,000, and paid Fogle Brothers Company \$14,000 to construct a new residence. Design of the house is attributed to Willard C. Northup, the well-known local architect, who later formed the prolific architectural firm of Northup and O'Brien in 1925.

Lowe and his family moved into their new home in 1912 and lived there until 1931. Unfortunately, Lowe lost the house due to the 1929 stock market crash.



Cicero Francis Lowe House, 1914
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files



The Cicero Francis Lowe House was built in 1911 in Washington Park, one of the most prestigious turn-of-the-20th-century neighborhoods in Winston-Salem. In particular, Cascade Avenue was home to many prominent industrialists and businessmen at the time. The house stands on one of the highest elevations in the city at the intersection of S. Broad Street and W. Cascade Avenue.

The Lowe House is an imposing, hipped-roof frame Neoclassical Revival house. A dominant feature of the house is the front porch, which is a one-story wraparound porch supported by fluted Ionic columns, with a large, convex front bay topped by a pedimented second tier with Ionic columns. Gable dormer windows with arched upper sash are featured, as are returned and modillioned cornices. At the central entrance is an arched fanlight and leaded glass sidelights with a classical surround at front door.

The house is a reminder of the exuberance and prosperity which Winston and Salem enjoyed during the early years of the 20th century.

Today the Cicero Francis Lowe House is privately occupied.



Cicero Francis Lowe House at 204 Cascade Avenue, c. 1970s
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Cicero Francis Lowe House National Register Nomination
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY1175.pdf>

Washington Park National Register Nomination
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY2510.pdf>

<http://www.washingtonparkneighbors.org/architects.html>



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