

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Hauser-Reich-Butner House

Local Historic Landmark #78
5575 Main St., Bethania
Construction Date: c. 1770
Landmark Designation Date:
10/22/1990

According to the Moravian records, the Hauser-Reich-Butner House was likely constructed in the 1770s by George Hauser, Sr. Hauser was born in Goschekon, Pennsylvania. In 1753, Hauser married Anna Margaretha Elrod of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At some point during the third quarter of the 18th century, the Hausers moved to the area; records show their son, George, Jr., was born on a farm near the Yadkin River in 1755.



George and Margaretha were among the original Bethania residents. Although they were not Moravians, the Hausers were received into the Bethania congregation in April 1860. Interestingly, oral tradition maintains that General Cornwallis spent a night in the house during his occupation of the town in February 1781; hence the house has been referred to as the “Cornwallis House.”

After Hauser’s death in 1801, the house had a succession of inhabitants. According to the Moravian records, Naeman Reich, who was a painter, came to live in the house as early as 1847. He remained there until his death in 1870. Reich was responsible for the decorative painting found within the house. The next occupant was Levin Strupe, who was Reich’s son-in-law. In 1887, Professor Albert I. Butner purchased the property from Strupe. Butner was a well-respected educator who had his own academy in Bethania for 30 years. He also served as superintendent of Forsyth County’s public schools.

The Hauser-Reich-Butner House is a two-story, log building (covered with weatherboards), three bays wide and two bays deep, constructed on a dry laid stone foundation. Originally, the house featured a large central chimney, which was removed and replaced by two interior end chimneys during a substantial mid 19th

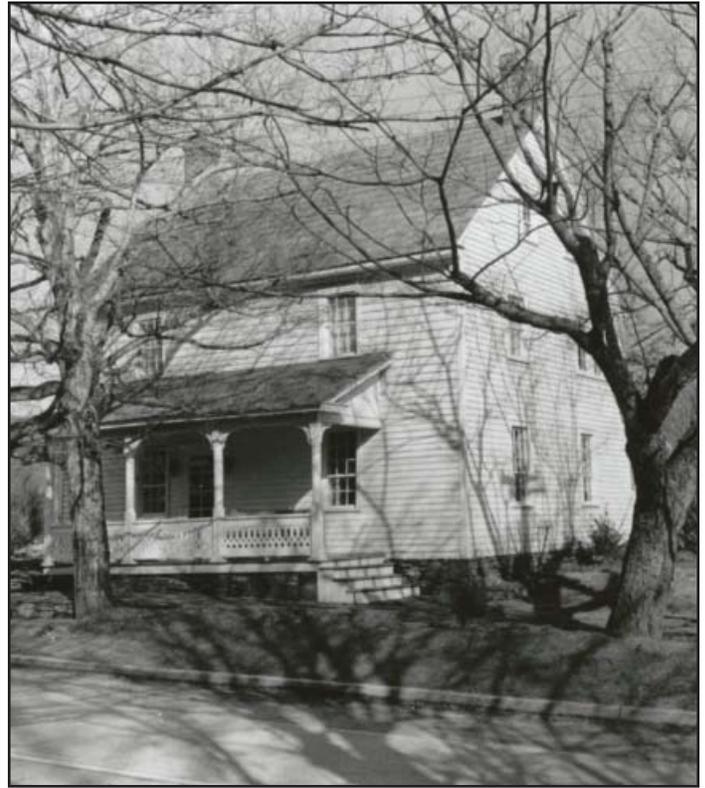


Hauser-Reich-Butner House, Date Unknown
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission’s Files

century renovation of the house. The front porch likely dates from that same time.

The Hauser-Reich-Butner House is significant as an example of how Germanic building practices melded into the mainstream of American design over time. The mid 19th century alterations to the building attest to that trend. The changes implanted a Greek Revival style on a traditional 18th century Germanic house type.

Today the Hauser-Reich-Butner House is privately occupied.



Leon T. Butner House in Bethania, 1959
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library
Photograph Collection



Leon T. Butner House in Bethania, 1942
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library
Photograph Collection

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Bethania National Register Historic District
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0055.pdf>

**Bethania National Register Historic District
Amendment and Boundary Increase**
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY2044.pdf>



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