

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Brickenstein-Leinbach House

Local Historic Landmark #79

426 Old Salem Rd., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1907

Relocation Date: 1990

Landmark Designation Date: 05/06/1991

Lawrence Bagge Brickenstein and his wife, Gwennie, grew up in the Moravian town of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He moved to Salem in 1890, and they were married in 1892. Brickenstein prospered as a plumbing contractor and tinsmith. The next generation to live in the house was Brickenstein's only daughter, Margaret, and her husband, Clarence Theodore (C.T.) Leinbach, a Wachovia Bank executive, and later, officer. Leinbach was also active in civic affairs; he was an alderman, on the school board, and mayor pro tempore. Margaret and C.T. Leinbach raised four children in the house. C.T. Leinbach died in 1972, leaving equal interests in the property to each of the children.

In July 1980, the Leinbach heirs sold the property to Old Salem, Inc. The Brickenstein-Leinbach House was constructed on the site of Salem first blacksmith's shop and house; as such, Old Salem, Inc. planned to excavate the site and reconstruct the blacksmith's building. Therefore, in 1990, the house was moved from 426 S. Main Street in Salem to its present location on Old Salem Road in order to preserve it.



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

Both Brickenstein and Leinbach were upper-middle-class Moravian businessmen, active both in the Church and in the community. Like houses built in Salem for Moravian clients since the mid 19th century, the Brickenstein-Leinbach House was a fashionable dwelling that reflected popular taste. By the 1840s, some of the most stylish buildings in Forsyth County were being constructed for Moravian clients in Salem. This house represents one of the last of this group. The following Moravian generation, while they maintained their Church affiliation, did not build their houses in Salem, preferring to live in the greater Winston-Salem community.

The Brickenstein-Leinbach House is significant as the work of master architect, Frank Pierce Milburn (1868-1926), who is considered by sources to be the most successful architect in the southern United States during the late 19th and first quarter of the 20th century. Milburn is best known for his work on public buildings, such as courthouses, state capitols, college buildings, commercial buildings, and railroad stations. For instance, Milburn designed the second Forsyth County Courthouse and the 1911 Wachovia Bank and Trust Company Building (Local Historic Landmark #118). However, while he did design a number of residences for prosperous Winston-Salem clients, only the Brickenstein-Leinbach House and the P.H. Hanes House on Glade Street in the West End Historic District remain. Milburn's dominant architectural style was the Neoclassical Revival style. However, he was



*Brickenstein-Leinbach House at original location on S. Main Street, Date Unknown*

Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files

a typically eclectic architect of his time, as he was equally at home with the Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Italianate styles.

The contracting firm of Fogle Brothers built the Brickenstein-Leinbach House. This Winston firm, founded in 1871, did most of the building and design work in Winston and Salem during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Displaying both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman-style influences, the house was built in a transitional period during the eclectic movement of American home building. The house features a steeply pitched hipped roof with a cross gable, front-gabled dormer windows, an extensive one-story porch, one-over-one windows, and several beveled glass decorative elements. The main elevation of the house displays interesting Stick-style ornament. The house retains its original slate roof with copper ridges and valleys. Brick interior and end chimneys have tall, corbelled stacks. The house is covered with narrow weatherboards and has wide, plain trim around door and window openings. A leaded-glass transom surmounts the double-leaf raised-panel front door.

A comprehensive rehabilitation of the house followed its relocation.

Today the Brickenstein-Leinbach House houses legal and commercial offices.



*Move of the Brickenstein-Leinbach House, 1990  
(South elevation shown)  
Courtesy of Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's Files*



*Brickenstein-Leinbach House, south elevation,  
following rehabilitation, 1992  
Courtesy of Forsyth County  
Historic Resources Commission's Files*

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**Brickenstein-Leinbach House  
National Register Nomination**  
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0555.pdf>

[http://www.chrisdhilton.com/older\\_homes.htm](http://www.chrisdhilton.com/older_homes.htm)

<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000085>



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