

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Kernersville Moravian Church

**Local Historic Landmark #80**

**504 S. Main St., Kernersville**

**Construction Date: 1867**

**Landmark Designation Date: 08/06/1991**

In 1866, John Frederick Kerner, the oldest child of Joseph Körner, for whom Kernersville is named, grew weary of traveling with his family to Friedland (one of the three Moravian country congregations) for church services. As such, he obtained permission from the Provincial Elder's Conference of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, to build a church in Kernersville. Shortly thereafter, Kerner deeded nearly two acres of land for a church and graveyard. Construction soon began using handmade brick with clay from the Kerner property. The sanctuary was completed in 1867.

Throughout the history of the church, prominent members of the Körner family, including Dr. Elias Kerner, Nathaniel Macon Kerner (Local Historic Landmark #43), Jule Körner (Local Historic Landmark #66), and Henry C. Körner (Local Historic Landmark #70), were instrumental in the physical and spiritual development of the church.



While the original church sanctuary was completed in 1867, modifications and additions were made over time, occurring in 1888, 1892, 1924, 1952, and 1962. The main structure of the church is a brick, gable-front building with a three-tiered steeple crowning a vestibule, which is flanked by one-bay side porches. To the rear of the structure, a lane lined by cedars leads to the graveyard, enclosed by an ornate 1901 wrought iron fence. Interments date from 1867. Located immediately behind the graveyard is the brick-walled family plot for the Körner family.

Today Kernersville Moravian Church remains an active congregation in Kernersville.



*Kernersville Moravian Church, c. 1890*  
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

**Kernersville South Main Street  
National Register Nomination**

<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0716.pdf>

<http://www.kernersvillemoravian.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/KernersvilleMoravian>



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