Edwin Theophilus Ackerman House

Local Historic Landmark #81
(Original Salem Lot 88)
440 Factory Row, Winston-Salem
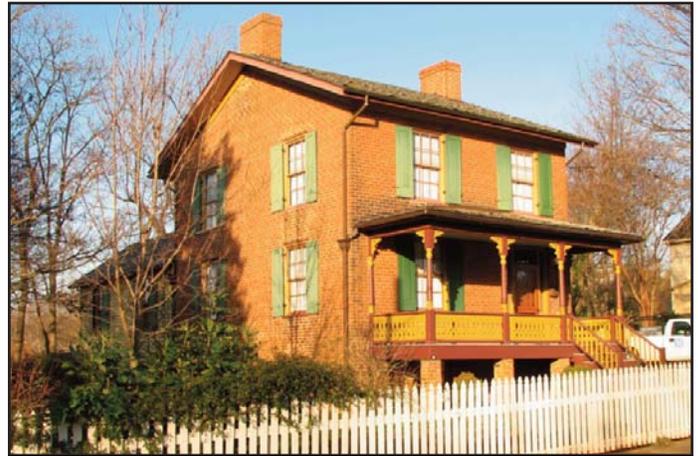**Construction Date: 1856**
Landmark Designation Date: 11/04/1991

Edwin Theophilus Ackerman's father, John Ackerman (Local Historic Landmark #77), was the first resident of the street known as Factory Row. Since Edwin grew up in the area, it was natural that he received permission from the Church in 1856 to build on Factory Row's Lot 88. Ackerman and his neighbor to the north, Rufus Patterson, developed a lasting friendship. In fact, when Patterson left Salem in 1862 to operate a mill in Caldwell County, Ackerman accompanied him to act as mill supervisor. In 1863, Ackerman was forced to sell his Salem house to pay some debts. Unfortunately, in 1864, the Caldwell County mill was burned in Stoneman's Raid. Ackerman then returned to Salem, where he worked for the Salem Paper Mill and F.&H. Fries Cotton Mill (Local Historic Landmark #36). Ultimately, in 1873, Ackerman was able to purchase the house originally built by his friend, Rufus Patterson, on Lot 87.

The 1856 Edwin Theophilus Ackerman House is one in a row of three residential structures constructed during the mid 19th century, a time of change in Salem. The house is an important element in the antebellum history and architecture of Salem. It is a reflection of Salem's need

to expand geographically and suggests the introduction of elements of popular architectural fashion into Salem after the use of Germanic-influenced building began to fade.

The Ackerman House is two bays wide and two bays deep. There are two interior end chimneys, the northern chimney being false. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple, boxed cornice with overhanging eaves. The house features a Victorian porch, with turned colonettes and scroll-sawn balustrade and brackets. Although the house has been altered, the alterations do not detract significantly from the architectural integrity of the building. Also, its setting on Factory Row shows the type and scale of residences appropriate to the community's early industrialists.

The Ackerman House is interesting in that it does not have the simple Germanic-style appearance that many of the structures in the main village area of Salem have. In fact, the structure somewhat retains the tall, narrow feeling of rowhouse architecture.

Today the Edwin Theophilus Ackerman House is privately occupied.

E.T. Ackerman House in Salem, 1981
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The South Trade Street Houses
http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0582.pdf

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