

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Christian Thomas Shultz House

Local Historic Landmark #84

3960 Walnut Hills Dr., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: c. 1830

Landmark Designation Date: 12/16/1991

In 1769, three generations of the Schultheiss (Shultz) family traveled from Pennsylvania to Wachovia and settled on 400 acres of land approximately three miles south of Bethania, which remained the Shultz family's center of community and worship for generations. On a portion of the land, fourth generation Christian Thomas Shultz (1805-1882) built a two-story log house c. 1830.

According to entries in Bethania's records having to do with miscellaneous visitations with members of the Shultz family, Christian Thomas was known as Thomas or Tom. He and his wife, Christina Mickey, had six children: Junius, who died during the Civil War; John Henry; Samuel, who served in the Civil War and then moved to Indiana; Henrietta Alspaugh; Mandy, who died at age fourteen; and William Augustus.

Like other members of the Shultz family, Tom Shultz was a Moravian and a member of the Church at Bethania. He was a farmer and a distiller. The 1850 Census gives some insight into his farming practices. He had a total of 192 acres. Forty acres were under cultivation. Indian corn was his primary crop, but he also grew wheat, rye, oats, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, hay, and flax. In addition, he produced 100 pounds of butter annually. He had less than five each of horses, cows, and sheep, and had 18 swine as well.

Christian Thomas Shultz died on May 18, 1882, and was buried in God's Acre at Bethania. According to his will, Shultz's estate at the time of his death was worth \$2,150. He left the family home to his widow, Christina, who sadly died less than four months after Shultz's death. Upon her death, William Augustus Shultz, the Schultz's son, was in full possession of the home tract, where he continued to live and raise his family.

The design of the Christian Thomas Shultz House demonstrates continued close cultural ties with the Moravians who settled Wachovia, retaining signature features of Germanic log construction, such as a large, exposed summer beam supporting exposed ceiling joists and a common rafter roof system with no ridge pole, but with rafters



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

supported by horizontal purlins, three trusses, and diagonal braces. Other features, such as the house's stone foundation, and gable roof with two gable-end chimneys, are characteristic of both Germanic and English construction. The Flemish-bond brick chimneys of the Shultz House are among a small group that survive in Forsyth County, and are rarely found with log houses. Although some alterations were made to the house in the mid 1940s, these changes remained remarkably true to the house's conservative heritage and simply reinforced the early 19th century vernacular character of the house.

The Christian Thomas Shultz House is one of the best surviving rural architectural examples in Forsyth County. The house is accompanied by a late 1860s log smokehouse that is typical of countless smokehouses built in the western Piedmont during the 19th century, but that are rapidly disappearing from the rural landscape.

Today the Christian Thomas Shultz House is privately occupied.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Christian Thomas Shultz House
National Register Nomination

<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0646.pdf>



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