

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Shore-Lehman House

Local Historic Landmark #101

5524 Main St., Bethania

Construction Date: 1805

Restoration Date: 1993

Landmark Designation Date:

12/16/1996, house; 12/20/2004, grounds

The Shore-Lehman House was constructed in 1805 for Johann Jacob Schor (Shore). Bethania records stated on May 29, 1805, "A new dwelling was laid up for Br. and Sr. Johann Jacob Schor. Their old house [built for Adam Kramer, a Moravian tailor and farmer] which was taken down some days ago, had become ruinous." Shore was related to the original town residents of Bethania, which was settled in 1759. Available evidence indicates that the Bethania community assisted Shore in the construction of his house. At that time, it was traditional for landowners/leaseholders to build their own houses with the help of neighbors. The specific names of those who worked on the house are unknown.



Pencil Sketch by Maximilian Eugene Grunert, titled "In Bethania," 31 October 1855 (Enlargement showing Shore-Lehman House) Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's files

Johann Christian Lehman, who was a shoemaker by trade, married Elisabeth Shore (who was the sister of Johann Jacob Shore), in 1808. Lehman and his family moved from Bethabara to Bethania in 1814 and according to the *Bethania Diary*, "bought the house and lot of Br. Johann Jacob Schor, who has moved to his farm." Shore's farm was located north of Bethania on Mill Creek. Around 1820, Lehman constructed a shoemaker's shop on the north side of the original house.

The Shore-Lehman House, of log and clapboard construction, is one of the oldest structures remaining in Bethania. The 1805 structure was Germanic in design, yet represented the popular Federal style of the period. It originally contained a central chimney, small windows, a dry-laid stone foundation, and cellar. Changes made to the house over time can be attributed to the transition from the German to the English style architecture in Bethania. This is reflected in such details as the shift from a central chimney to the construction of exterior end chimneys. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep, with a tin roof, and a full width, one story front porch, with a rear ell addition. The shoemaker's shop to the right of the house has been reconstructed. In 2004, the Shore-Lehman House's original landmark designation was expanded to

include a rear yard area, which had recently been acquired by the house's property owner. This placed the Shore-Lehman House property back into one ownership and its original lot configuration. Because of this, the property has potential to yield archaeological information related to the history of Bethania.

The Shore-Lehman House was restored in 1993.

Today the Shore-Lehman House is privately occupied.



Jacob Shore House in Bethania, 1984
Courtesy of Old Salem Museums and Gardens via
Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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

<http://www.townofbethania.org/visit.htm>



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