

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Middleton House

Local Historic Landmark #111

2721 Robinhood Rd., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: c. 1829, 1930

Landmark Designation Date: 11/19/2003

Middleton House was built by John Middleton, who owned a plantation in South Carolina. He began construction of his house on a site overlooking the Savannah River valley, and completed it in 1829. The house remained in Middleton family ownership; however, over time, the Middleton family fortune began to deteriorate. Because of this, the Middleton family planned to demolish the house; in preparation for the demolition, the family advertised for sale in *The Magazine Antiques* various interior fixtures – including mantels, brasses, and a tin chandelier.

In Winston-Salem, three sisters – Martha Thurmond Chatham (widow of industrialist Hugh Gwyn Chatham), Dewitt Thurmond Chatham, and Margaret Thurmond Kavanaugh – responded to the advertisement and traveled to South Carolina to see the advertised artifacts. Once there, they purchased some of the house's contents, but upon learning the fate of the house itself, they purchased it as well. The recently widowed Martha Chatham determined that she would move the house to Winston-Salem and reconstruct it on a large, wooded tract owned by the Chatham family.



Chatham selected local architect William Roy Wallace to manage the project. His task was a difficult one. After making measured drawings of the house on its original site, Wallace had to supervise its disassembly, numbering all the parts, and prepare the disassembled house for its move by rail to Winston-Salem. Once at its new home, Wallace had to carefully supervise the reconstruction of the house. He also designed a separate garage and servant's apartment that was compatible with the house. Wallace was successful in the project, and according to his son, always considered the project "a feather in his cap." Wallace continued to practice architecture in Winston-Salem until 1983, the year of his death at the age of 93.

Mrs. Chatham made use of another talented professional, the nationally-prominent landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman. Shipman was also heavily involved in the selection and procurement of wallpapers, fabrics, draperies, and even some furniture for the house.

Middleton House is a two-story, weatherboarded frame house with a side-gable roof, a pair of brick chimneys at each gable end, with front and rear classical entrance porches, one a single story, and the other with two tiers.

The house remained in family ownership with its longest owner being R. Philip Hanes, Jr., who was deeded the house in 1950. Upon Hanes's death in 2011, Middleton House was bequeathed to Wake Forest University.

Today Middleton House is in the ownership of Wake Forest University.



Middleton House, 2003
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files



Middleton House, Date Unknown
Courtesy of Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's Files

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Middleton House National Register Nomination
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY2658.pdf>

[http://www2.journalnow.com/news/2011/feb/01/2/
wsmain01-historic-home-is-donated-to-wake-ar-742833/](http://www2.journalnow.com/news/2011/feb/01/2/wsmain01-historic-home-is-donated-to-wake-ar-742833/)



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