Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House

Local Historic Landmark #132
112 N. Stratford Road, Winston-Salem
Construction Date: 1925
Landmark Designation Date: 11/09/2015

The Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House was built in 1925 and designed by architects Keen and Wallace for businessman Richard Thurmond Chatham, the son of Winston textile manufacturer Hugh Gwyn Chatham and Martha Lenoir Chatham. His wife, Lucy Hodgin Hanes, was the daughter of Winston industrialist John Wesley Hanes and Anna Hodgin Hanes. Thurmond and Lucy Hanes were married on October 29, 1919, linking two prominent North Carolina textile-manufacturing dynasties, Hanes Hosiery/P. H. Hanes Knitting Company and Chatham Manufacturing Company.

Thurmond, as he was known, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1917, and upon his return in 1919, worked as the executive secretary for Chatham Manufacturing Company until assuming the position of president following his father’s death in 1929. Although he served a second tour of duty beginning in 1942 in the Bureau of Ordnance within the Secretary of the Navy’s Office, and then in combat in Europe and the Southwest Pacific until 1945, he remained President of Chatham Manufacturing until his retirement in 1944, stepping down to become chairman of the board. Thurmond Chatham supported many industrial and agricultural causes during his tenure on the North Carolina Board of Conservation and Development, as president of the North Carolina Dairymen’s Association, and as a spokesman for the National Association of Wool Manufacturers in the late 1930s. He encouraged higher tariffs on imported goods to support struggling American entrepreneurs, and successfully campaigned for election as a Democratic representative in the Eighty-first United States Congress and three subsequent terms from 1949 until 1956.

Lucy Hanes Chatham attended Salem Academy and the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. Along with her husband, Lucy Hanes Chatham was a leader in many civic organizations and at Centenary Methodist Church.

The 1925 stucco residence is one of four striking 1920s homes in the exclusive Stratford Place neighborhood, platted by Philadelphia landscape architect Thomas Sears. Although considered a Classical Revival, the tall hip roof with flared eaves and segmental-arch-pediment dormers reflects a French esthetic, uncommon in European Revivals of this era in Winston-Salem. French doors, wood casements, and double-hung multi-pane windows provide light and ventilation in addition to views connecting the interior to the exterior, all important characteristics of French architectural design.

Thurmond Chatham lived in the house until Lucy’s death in 1949. Following her death, he spent much of his time in Washington, D.C. and leased the home to Chatham Manufacturing executive James Harrison Lassiter and his wife,
Allene. Thurmond Chatham married Patricia Firestone Coyner, and in 1952, celebrated the birth of his son, Walter Firestone. Chatham passed in Durham in February of 1957, one month after completing his fourth congressional term, and was buried in Winston-Salem’s Salem Cemetery. He left a legacy at his passing, endowing the Chatham Foundation to enable educational opportunities for high-achieving youth in the community.

The Thurmond and Lucy Hanes Chatham House stands as a reminder of the significance of both the Hanes and the Chatham families to the community of Winston-Salem.

This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission web site: http://tiny.cc/3ex2ey