

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

John Jacob Schaub House

Local Historic Landmark #89

5622 Balsom Rd., Pfafftown

Construction Date: 1830

Landmark Designation Date: 01/25/1993

In 1775, John Jacob Schaub was born in Bethabara to Johannes and Anna Johanna Schaub. Though no mention is made of his infancy in Bethabara; he was schooled in nearby Salem. One interesting account from the *Salem Diary of 1796* describes Schaub's unsuccessful attempt to save another youth, William Hall, from drowning in Salem Creek near the town. Schaub was somewhat independent, and as such, he refused to allow the Church to select his wife, which was the custom in the Moravian congregation. On August 9, 1797, Jacob and Salome Nissen were married in Bethania, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

John Jacob Schaub, a brick mason and tailor, began building his new home in 1829 on land assumed to have been acquired from his father. According to the Moravian records, he fired all of the brick used in the building himself. The house's construction is confirmed in the October 7, 1829 *Bethania Diary*, when the recorder "...visited Br. And Sr. Jacob Schaub. They are building a new house." On August 21, 1830, the *Diary* states, "On invitation I visited Br. And Sr. Jacob Schaub, who besides celebrating with some friends and neighbors a double birthday, were moving into their recently built brick house." The Moravian records further state, on October 8, 1830:

"...Jacob Schaub is very sick and weak; he worked too hard, more than he could stand in the summer. He built his house and made 25,000 bricks for sale, and he became overheated when they were burnt. Then he had to look after his land. He has been ill 5 weeks and the doctors fear he will not get better. He has liver trouble...."

Seven years later, in 1837, Schaub died after a reportedly long and painful illness, leaving behind his wife and five children. Schaub's descendents continued to live in the house until 1951, when it was sold to Nancy O'Hanlon



Photographs courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

and Charles G. Hill. They stabilized the structure with the assistance of local architect William Roy Wallace Jr. After Hill's death, his family donated the house and 13 acres for a public park, today's C.G. Hill Park. The Schaub House and an 8.6-acre tract were then sold to former North Carolina Senator Hamilton C. Horton, who, over time, completed an authentic restoration.

The Schaub House is a two-story, brick dwelling, two bays wide and two deep and features exterior end

chimneys with stepped shoulders and decorative caps. Because of the topography, the south chimney rests on a high stone foundation, while the northern chimney terminates at the ground level with molded bricks. Doors on the east and west elevations are batten with strap hinges. An outstanding feature of the house is its molded brick cornice on both the east and west elevations. The rear porch has been replaced with a one-story, shed roof addition, which was executed in a sympathetic design and does not detract from the house's physical integrity.

The Schaub House building itself is one of the earliest, finest, and most pristine brick houses in Forsyth County. It exemplifies the Pennsylvanian-influenced domestic architecture of Moravian communities and farms.

Today the John Jacob Schaub House is privately occupied.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

John Jacob Schaub National Register Nomination
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0185.pdf>

[http://images.lib.ncsu.edu/luna/servlet/view/all/what/John+Jacob+Schaub+House+\(Forsyth+County,+N.C.\)](http://images.lib.ncsu.edu/luna/servlet/view/all/what/John+Jacob+Schaub+House+(Forsyth+County,+N.C.))

<http://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/Parks/CGHill/history.aspx>



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