

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethania Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See continuation sheet #2

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bethania

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

37

COUNTY

Forsyth

CODE

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Various

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Forsyth County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Winston-Salem

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE one

LOCATION

Beginning at a point in the western boundary of N.C. 65 where said boundary intersects with the center line of Muddy Creek; thence with said boundary of N.C. 65 in a northerly direction approximately 85 feet to the southernmost corner of the property designated as Lot 32B, Block 3487, Forsyth County Tax Maps; running thence in a northerly direction with the western boundary of said Lot 32B the four following distances: 40 feet, more or less, to a point, thence 150 feet, more or less, to a point, thence 365 feet, more or less, to a point and thence 15 feet, more or less, to a point which is 171.6 feet west of the western boundary of a 25-foot alley; running thence in a northerly direction parallel with the 171.6 feet west of said boundary of the alley a total distance of 1,037.5 feet, more or less, to a point in the center line of Loesch's Lane; running thence in an easterly direction along the center line of Loesch's Lane 262.6 feet, more or less, to a point; thence in a northerly direction falling in with the eastern boundary of Lot 2A, Block 4849, Forsyth County Tax Maps, 988 feet, more or less, to a point in the western boundary of Lot 3C of said Block 4849; thence in an easterly direction across said Lot 3C and the Bethania-Tobaccoville Road and falling in with and continuing along the common boundary between Lots 16 and 17 of Block 4849 into an alley located east of said lots, a total distance of 361.5 feet, more or less, to the center line of said alley; thence in a southerly direction with the center line of said alley a distance of 975 feet, more or less, to the center of the Bethania-Rural Hall Road; thence in an easterly direction with the center line of said Bethania-Rural Hall Road 300 feet, more or less, to a point located 450 feet measured vertically from the east boundary of the Bethania-Tobaccoville Road; thence running southwardly on a line parallel with and 450 feet east of the eastern boundary of said Bethania-Tobaccoville Road 275 feet, more or less, to the Moravian Church property; thence eastwardly with the line of the Moravian Church 560 feet, more or less, to a corner of said church property; thence northwardly with said church property 165 feet, more or less, to a corner; thence continuing with said church property in an easterly direction 228.6 feet, more or less, to a point, a corner of said church property; thence southwardly with said church property 796.3 feet, more or less, to a point, another corner of said church property, thence in a westerly direction along the south line of said church property 490 feet, more or less, to a point, the southeast corner of the property of Lola Frances Butner designated as Lot 68B, Block 3487 on the Forsyth County Tax maps; thence with the south line of said Lola Frances Butner property northwardly 230 feet, more or less, to a point which is 450 feet measured vertically from the east boundary of the Bethania-Tobaccoville Road; thence southwardly on a line parallel with and 450 feet east of the eastern boundary of the Bethania-Tobaccoville Road a distance of 545 feet, more or less, to the northern boundary of Bethania Road; thence along the northern boundary of Bethania Road in a westerly direction to its point of intersection with the center line of Bear Creek; thence with the center line of Bear Creek as it meanders southwardly into Muddy Creek; thence with the center line of Muddy Creek as it meanders in a north-westerly direction to the point of beginning.

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bethania Historic District comprises the entire village of Bethania, founded in 1759 as a self-sufficient Moravian farming community. In 1975, the town remains isolated, no larger than at its nineteenth century peak, and of the thirty-four buildings, thirteen predate the Civil War and seven were built in the late nineteenth century.

Bethania retains more of the general form than the specific detail of an eighteenth century Moravian town. The original town plan of 1759--consisting of town lots flanking a main street extending north and south of a central square, a cemetery located east of the square, and garden lots extending out from the rectangular settlement in each direction--is intact with the exception of the square, which disappeared in the late eighteenth century.

The remarkably well-preserved village, composed like the classic western ghost town of just one street, has only one intrusion, a two-story brick store. Its compact, harmonious streetscape and intimate scale are created by the two-story houses clustered together on both sides of the narrow main street, with fieldstone foundations, crisp white clapboard walls and steep gable roofs. All of the pre-twentieth century houses abut the sidewalk, and most of these have wide front porches with shed roofs and end entrances rather than the customary center bay entrances. The sidewalk is paved with fieldstone, which extends up to the foundation walls of some of the houses and creates the effect of a domestic arcade through the porches extending end to end along the street. The fieldstone retaining wall and thick canopy of maple trees which border Main Street emphasize this pleasing unity. The houses are physically dominated by the 1809 brick Moravian church which stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of town, adjacent to the square site. This urban compactness, rare in North Carolina, is a product of Moravian town planning and sense of community.

The present Bethania Moravian Church (1), constructed between 1806-1809, is located on the northeast corner of the square site. The church is a rectangular brick building, two bays wide and four deep, with a steep gabled roof crowned by a cupola, a two-story brick 1913 addition extending to the east, and a smaller gabled brick 1965 vestibule addition on the south gable end main facade. The original main block burned in 1942, leaving only the walls standing, and was rebuilt within the original walls. The additions are compatible in style with the main block, which has a stuccoed fieldstone foundation, a rounded brick water table, Flemish bond brick walls, cove cornices, and round-arched sash windows with traceried upper sash and molded surrounds. The north gable end bears the date 1807 in glazed headers. This church is very similar to the early nineteenth century Salem Moravian Church, also of brick, with round-arched windows and a cupola. The original interior plan was typically Moravian, with the pulpit in the center of the long east wall and a choir balcony across each short end wall. The south gable end entrance was originally the men's entrance; the original women's entrance, now a window, was located in the north gable end. The original interior plan was not reconstructed, and now consists of a pulpit against the north wall and a balcony across the south wall. The corners of the plastered walls are deeply coved like those of the Salem Moravian Church.

God's Acre (2), reached by a narrow lane lined with red cedar trees, is located on the crest of the hill east of the church. The cemetery, enclosed by a picket fence, is laid out in four quarters, which are bounded by rows of ancient red cedars. Since the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

establishment of the cemetery in 1759, the graves have been arranged according to the Moravian choir system, with married and single men buried in the southwest section, married and single women in the northwest section, female children in the northeast section and male children in the southeast section. Of the approximately 500 gravestones, those which predate the 1830s are small flat stone or marble markers numbered in order of placement. Marker No. 1 is that of Mary Hauser, 1759-1760. After this period flat and vertical markers are intermingled. The most ornate marker is that of Israel George Lash, 1810-1878.

By 1760 Bethania had ten houses along Main Street; by 1768, eighteen houses. The original houses were apparently temporary frontier dwellings, for the first two-story house, that of Heinrich Shore, was not erected until 1768. These were evidently soon replaced, for on the fifty-year anniversary of the town's founding, in 1789, a speaker recalled that ". . . at first only small cabins were built, of which two are still standing in the Upper Town. Ten years later men began to build proper houses. . . ." Because Bethania allowed non-Moravian residents from the beginning, the buildings probably did not reflect distinctive Moravian construction to the extent that the architecture of the nearby Salem settlement did. However, the pre-1850 buildings do have some typically Moravian characteristics: dry-laid stone rubble cellars, log walls, indications of original central chimneys (typical of early northern houses), and hall-and-parlor floor plans.

Most of the antebellum Bethania houses combine elements of different construction periods. The lots, with foundation walls and cellars, have been frequently reused, and much modernization occurred about 1850 which erased most of the early decorative fabric. The individual buildings will be grouped for analysis by constructional types--log, brick-nogged wood frame, and wood frame--rather than by style.

The six two-story log houses--Jacob Lash House (3), Jacob Shore House (4), Abraham Transou House (5), Solomon Transou House (6), Michael Hauser House (7), and the Reich-Strupe-Butner House (8)--probably built from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth century, represent the earliest constructional type. The Jacob Lash House, Jacob Shore House, and Michael Hauser House were remodeled about 1850, the others later in the century. The Jacob Lash House, built about 1790, is now under restoration and will be analyzed as a prototype of this group. The Lash House, three bays wide and two deep, had a small cellar beneath the right rear room, a central chimney, a tile roof, and four rooms on each level, each heated by a fireplace or stove. During the mid-nineteenth century the central chimney was replaced by interior end chimneys, the roof tiles were removed, the windows enlarged, the first floor plan altered, and the enclosed corner stair enlarged. The second story, however, is virtually unaltered, with plastered log walls and ceiling and a chair rail in the two left rooms and whitewashed log walls with exposed beaded ceiling joists in the two right rooms. The partition walls consist of wide vertical sheathing, some with beaded edges, some molded. Some of the original vertical batten doors with dovetailed stiles, typical of Moravian door construction, with HL and strap

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

hinges and hand-carved wooden door handles and latches, remain throughout the house. The original attic stair, an open-string stair in the right rear room, has a simple, handsome railing of wide, shaped boards. One apparently original six-light sash with wide muntins remains. All of the original, visible nails are hand-wrought. Many of the handmade clay roof tiles are stored in the attic. An extant 1820 watercolor of Bethania shows each of the houses covered with siding, and it may be that these log houses were sided at the time of construction.

The Jacob Shore House and Solomon Transou House also originally had central chimneys, and presumably were similar in other details to the Jacob Lash House. Both now have interior end chimneys, and were remodeled a second time following the Civil War. The 1820 watercolor shows both central and interior end chimneys; thus the interior end chimneys, with corner fireplaces, of the Michael Hauser House and Reich-Strupe-Butner House are perhaps original, for no central chimney indications exist. Other original fabric common to both houses includes the fieldstone foundation and rear cellar, log walls, and probably the four-room floor plan and enclosed rear stair to the second floor, with cellar stair beneath this stair.

The exterior fabric of the Jacob Shore and Reich-Strupe-Butner houses is very similar, being Federal in style with windows which are small in relation to the wall surfaces, and gable end raking cornices with short eave returns. The exterior fabric of the Michael Hauser House is Greek Revival in style, with flush-sheathed pedimented gable ends and ovolo-molded trim. The interior openings have surrounds with corner blocks.

The first-floor right front room of the Reich-Strupe-Butner House has illusionistic painting on plaster walls and ceiling which is attributed to the painter, Naaman Reich, who owned and lived in the house from at least 1847 to his death in 1871. The ornament consists of two picturesque landscape scenes on the front wall, seen through trompe l'oeil windows within simulated marble walls: one a pastoral farm scene, the other a view of a grist mill and waterfall. Above the corner fireplace is a still life of fruit and flowers within an illusionary niche. A simulated modillion cornice and ceiling medallion complete the parlor. The painting is typical of the mid-nineteenth century American school of primitive landscape painting.

The Abraham Transou House, smaller than the other log houses, is perhaps the out-building shown on the rear of its present lot in the 1820 watercolor and moved to the front of the lot at a later date. The V-notched log house has whitewashed log walls, an interior end chimney, a dovetailed batten door with strap hinges, and a rear brick-nogged addition.

The next group of buildings consists of those with two-story mortise-and-tenon wood frames infilled with brick nogging: Daniel Butner House (9), Grabs-Conrad House (10), Hauser-Strupe House (11), John Christian Lash House (12), Ed Butner House (13), and the Moravian Parsonage (14). Brick nogging was used early in Bethania, for the 1771 Gemein Haus was constructed in this manner, and the earliest buildings of this group, the first

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE three

four mentioned above, are probably contemporary with the log group. These early nogged houses do not differ substantially from the log group, but were large, more finely finished dwellings. An item in the Moravian Records of 1851, which describes two houses destroyed by fire, hints at this distinction: ". . . one a log house covered with weatherboard, the other a large fine frame house that had been repainted quite recently."³ The Daniel Butner House, which is under restoration, is the best preserved of this early group, and will be analyzed as a prototype. Three bays wide and three deep, it rests on a fieldstone foundation with a rear cellar, has a central chimney which was originally much more massive, and a steep gable roof. The main entrance is in the left bay of the street facade; six-over-nine first story sash and six-over-six second story sash pierce the house. A late nineteenth century photograph of the exterior⁴ shows a shed facade porch of the Bethania type. The original floor plan, identical to that of the log houses, survives in its original state only on the second floor, and neither original stair remains. The interior walls are plastered directly on the nogged frame, for nogging eliminates the need for lathing as well as having insulating properties. The only original interior finish elements remaining are several doors with six raised panels and hand-wrought strap hinges, some original molded surrounds and chair rails, and many of the wide vertically sheathed partition walls. All of the original mantels have been removed, but an extant nineteenth century photograph of the Butner House parlor⁵ shows a transitional Georgian-Federal period mantel which is apparently original, with a segmental-arched fireplace opening and raised-paneled ornament. The Butner House appears in the 1820 watercolor, and must have been built a few years earlier.

The Grabs-Conrad House was remodeled in the late nineteenth century, but retains its high fieldstone foundation and evidence of a central chimney. (It now has exterior end chimneys.) Some wide beaded vertically sheathed partition walls, an enclosed stair to the second floor, and vertical batten doors with dovetailed stiles also survive. This house has a freestanding kitchen, perhaps original, of identical wall construction, with an enclosed corner stair to the loft. The Hauser-Strupe House was so thoroughly remodeled during the late nineteenth century that the only original elements remaining are the fieldstone foundation, with a rear cellar, the nogged framework, and indications in the flooring of a central chimney.

The John Christian Lash House was enlarged in the mid-nineteenth century to its present size. Original fabric visible in the older left side includes the fieldstone foundation and cellar, the roof rafters and one door with six raised panels and strap hinges. The house has interior end chimneys with corner fireplaces, boxed ovolo-molded eaves, a center hall two-room deep floor plan, and Greek Revival interior finish. At the rear are two substantially-constructed brick outbuildings apparently contemporary with the enlargement: a one-story brick kitchen and a brick smokehouse. Both buildings are laid in one-to-four common brick bond and are well-preserved; the kitchen has been connected to the house and has a frame second-story addition. The only other early outbuilding standing in the village is the stone smokehouse (15) at the rear of the Ranke-Wilson House. The square gabled structure is constructed of dry-laid fieldstone, like the foundations and cellars, and has narrow rectangular wall slits, presumably

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE four

for ventilation.

The Ed Butner House, which has interior end chimneys, was remodeled in the late nineteenth century and again in the early twentieth century. The Moravian Parsonage, built by the Moravian Church in 1852, is the most recent house known to have a nogged framework, and demonstrates the long popularity of this construction. It was originally located on the site of the 1771 Gemein Haus, immediately south of the church, where it had a cellar, and was moved to its present location in the 1960s and converted to a private residence. It is one of the purest examples of the Greek Revival style in Bethania. The house has pedimented gable ends, boxed, ovolo-molded eaves, interior end chimneys, and a center bay entrance with a transom. The former porch, shown in a late nineteenth century photograph of the house, conformed to the Bethania porch type. The present reconstructed porch has a front entrance.

In addition to the residential and religious buildings, Bethania contains the remains of a small nineteenth century woolen mill (16), an 1899 grist mill (17), a late nineteenth century doctor's office (18), a late Victorian Pythian Hall (19), and a commercial building built ca. 1930 (20). The woolen mill, now a private residence, is located at the southwest corner of Loesch's Lane and the west alley. This one-story brick building, laid in one-to-four common bond, with segmental-arched openings, sash windows, an exterior end chimney and a shed roof, appears to be part of a once-larger building. Its construction date is unknown, but in 1882 it was known as the Thomas B. Lash Woolen Mill, with two spinning frames and fourteen looms operated by a Corless steam engine (15). Bethania has possessed a grist mill since at least 1784, when one was constructed on nearby Muddy Creek. The present mill, built in 1899 as the Lehman & Butner Roller Mill and now the Manning Milling Company, is a rambling two-story frame building located at the south end of Bethania on the north side of the Bethabara Road (S.R. 1688). On the west side of west land, opposite the church, is Pythian Hall, originally two stories, now a one-story frame building, late Victorian in style, with exposed roof rafters and a small bell tower on the peak of the gable roof. The bell tower contains the iron bell bought in 1762 for the first Bethania church. The building, which served as the Bethania school after 1908, is now occupied by a Masonic Lodge. Dr. Strickland's Office, a small frame building with a gable end facade, was built in the late nineteenth century and remodeled as a private residence in the mid-twentieth century. The commercial building, a two-story cinderblock and brick structure located on the west side of Main Street near the square site, houses an antique shop and apartments, and is the only intrusion in the district.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Bethania Historic District Inventory List

1. Bethania Moravian Church (e. side Main St. in center of town): Third church building of town, built in 1808. Burned 1942 and reconstructed within original walls.
2. God's Acre (east of Moravian Church on plateau): Laid out in 1759; oldest grave dated 1760. Still in use.
3. Jacob Lash House (w. side Main St. opposite Moravian Church): 2-story log house built ca. 1790. Remodeled ca. 1850. Now under restoration to 1790 period.
4. Jacob Shore House (w. side Main St. immediately s. of Marlex Apts.): Late 18th or early 19th c. 2-story log house, remodeled ca. 1850 and ca. 1890.
5. Abraham Transou House (e. side Main St. immediately north of Ed Butner House): 2-story log house. Late 18th or early 19th c. Now under restoration.
6. Solomon Transou House (e. side Main St. immediately n. of Abraham Transou House): 2-story log house built late 18th or early 19th c. Remodeled ca. 1850. Now under restoration.
7. Michael Hauser House (ne. corner of junction of Main St. and Loesch's Lane): 2-story log house built late 18th or early 19th c. Remodeled ca. 1850.
8. Reich-Strupe-Butner House (se. corner of junction of Main St. and Loesch's Lane): 2-story log house built late 18th or early 19th c. Remodeled in late 19th c. Parlor has mid-19th c. wall paintings.
9. Daniel Butner House (e. side Main St. immediately n. of Solomon Transou House): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging, built late 18th or early 19th c. Remodeled late 19th c. Now under restoration.
10. Grabs-Conrad House (e. side Main St., 4th house n. of junction of Main and Loesch's Lane): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging, built late 18th to early 19th c. Remodeled late 19th c.
11. Hauser-Strupe House (w. side Main St. immediately s. of John Christian Lash House): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging, built late 18th to early 19th c. Remodeled late 19th c.
12. John Christian Lash House (se. corner of junction of Main St. and Loesch's Lane): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging, remodeled ca. 1850. Mid-19th c. brick smokehouse and freestanding kitchen.

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Bethania Historic District Inventory List

13. Ed. Butner House (e. side Main St. immediately s. of Abraham Transou House): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging, built ca. 1848, remodeled early 20th c.
14. Moravian Church Parsonage (s. side God's Acre Alley): 2-story wood frame house with brick nogging built in 1852. Restored in 1960s.
15. Ranke-Wilson Stone Smokehouse (rear of Ranke-Wilson House on w. side Main St, immediately s. of Jacob Lash House): Constructed of dry-laid stone rubble, date unknown.
16. Thomas B. Lash Woolen Mill (sw. corner of junction of Loesch's Lane and West Lane): 1-story brick building with shed roof built prior to 1882. Remodeled as residence in 20th c.
17. Lehman & Butner Roller Mill (n. side S.R. 1688 Bethabara Road, .05 mi. e. of Main St.): Built in 1899 as roller mill, with several 20th c. additions. Still in operation.
18. Dr. Strickland's Office (w. side Main St., immediately s. of Hauser-Strupe House): 1-story frame building built late 19th c. as office and remodeled in 20th c. as residence.
19. Pythian Hall (w. side West Lane opposite Bethania Moravian Church): Built early 20th c. as Pythian Hall, lowered to 1-story ca. 1908 and used as Bethania High School. Now a Masonic Lodge.
20. Antique Shop and Marlex Apts. (w. side Main St. immediately s. of Ranke-Wilson House): Ca. 1930 2-story cinder block and brick commercial building. Only intrusion in Bethania Historic District.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE five

¹Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, ed. by Adelaide L. Fries. Raleigh: North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1922. Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission. Vol. 5, 1784-1792, p. 2287.

²Bethania Watercolor, 1820, by unknown artist. Original in possession of present Bethania Moravian Church minister, Kenneth Robinson. Slide in collection of Old Salem, Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

³Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vol. 10, 1841-1851; p. 5621.

⁴Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hipp, Bethania.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Collection of Mrs. John Butner, Jr., Bethania. Copy on file in Survey files.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Social History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1759 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Christian Reuter (town plan)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethania, the second Moravian settlement in North Carolina, was founded in 1759 as a self-sufficient farming community which allowed both Moravian and non-Moravian settlers. The tiny village, now a bedroom community for Winston-Salem, has barely outgrown its 1759 town plan. Included in its thirty-three buildings are the 1809 brick Moravian church and twelve pre-Civil War houses, six constructed of logs and six of timber frame with brick nogging. The intimate scale, the similarity of house form and detail, and the urban interrelation of the houses, linked by front porches and stone-paved walks, provide the distinctive character of Bethania, a remarkable survival of the mature early nineteenth century townscape of this experimental German religious community.

In 1753 Earl Granville deeded 98,985 acres of land in the Piedmont section of North Carolina to the Unity of the Brethren, the persecuted German Moravian group whose first permanent settlement in America was established in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1741. The first Moravian settlement on this North Carolina tract, which was named Wachovia, was Bethabara, founded the same year. In 1759, to relieve the crowded conditions in Bethabara, which had prospered since its establishment, and to serve as an integrated community which also admitted non-Moravian church members, Bethania was founded. Salem, which would become the center of Moravian culture and influence in the state by the late eighteenth century, was not founded until 1766.

During the French and Indian War, repeated Indian raids forced many non-Moravian settlers in the northern Piedmont to seek refuge within Bethabara's stockade, and the "Memorabilia of Bethabara" of 1759 record that "By the 12th of May we had 120 refugees, whom we tried to comfort in body and soul, and to whom the Gospel was often preached."¹ Thus:

The place for Bethania was selected, and laid out by Br. Reuter; and early in July eight married couples of our members were selected for that village, and to them were added eight families of refugees, to whose hearts the Holy Spirit had set forth the sufferings of Jesus, and who had united themselves into a Society, and had asked permission also to settle there on trial. On July 18th, as soon as our rich harvest was gathered, Br. and Sr. Grabs, and the other selected Brethren, moved from Bethabara to Bethania, as the Saviour wished no time to be lost.²

The site chosen, a gently rolling hillside on the upland north of the Black Walnut Bottom, was within the Wachovia grant about three miles northwest of Bethabara. Reuter, a surveyor by profession, served as Moravian master planner in North Carolina, and drew the original plan of Bethania which is preserved in a 1759 Reuter map in the collection of the Moravian Archives of the Southern Province. The plan shows twenty-four town lots

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

flanking the main street, twelve north of the central square and twelve south, and indicates buildings: a large structure in the center of the square, and a smaller freestanding structure on each lot, with the exception of two pairs of double houses, one pair in the north section and one in the south. The north and south sections soon began to be referred to in the records as the "upper town" and "lower town."

The Moravian Records, which include a journal kept faithfully by the Bethania Moravian Church from its establishment, provide a fascinating, detailed history of village life, which evolved very differently from that of the communal, regimented villages of Bethabara and Salem. Like Bethabara, however, Bethania property was owned by the Moravian church, and in 1762 the Moravian Records report that "Br. Grammern, as attorney for the Proprietor of Wachovia, has arranged leases and rents with the residents in Bethania."³ The Moravian Church, from the beginning the most important building in Bethania, has always been located near the central square site. The first Moravian church in Bethania had been constructed by April, 1760, on the southwest corner of the square. This log building was built on low ground and was ruined by water damage. The second church, known as the Gemein Saal, was built between 1769 and 1771 on the higher east side of Main Street in the northeast corner of the square. The condition of this combination church and minister's residence, which following the construction of the present church in 1809 was used solely as the parsonage, was described by the newly arriving minister, George Bahnsen, in 1834:

Outside it looks as black as can be, at different places the weatherboards have given way, & you can see bricks & other materials made use of for the walls, in the garret there are plenty of airholes. Windowpanes are held together by large lumps of putty, put right into the middle of 4 or five cracks through the pane. The floor is so uneven in the "parlor" that one must walk cautiously. . . . Still we found every thing much better than we had expected . . . in short we felt quite satisfied with our backwoods habitation. . . ."⁴

By 1806 the congregation had outgrown the Gemein Saal, and the present church was completed in 1809. The Gemein Saal was used as the minister's residence until 1852, when a new parsonage was erected, which still stands.

Bethania was predominantly a farming community from the beginning, but was nonetheless able to provide most of its own services. By 1766 Bethania's residents included a tailor, wheelwright, two shoemakers, cooper, carpenter, blacksmith, baker, schoolmaster and reader, and two weavers. As early as 1762 the Bethania Moravian records report that Bethania wagons had brought goods overland from Charleston and from Fayetteville, an inland port on the Cape Fear River. Most of these men listed farming as their second occupation. By 1785 Bethania's population had increased to 108, second only to Salem with 205 inhabitants, while Bethabara had 90.

The Revolution brought problems of loyalty to Bethania villagers, whose beliefs prohibited active involvement in the fighting, and who were determined to maintain neutrality. On several occasions North Carolina threatened to force the able-bodied

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE two

men into the militia, but each time the Moravians of Wachovia were able to convince the government to exempt them in return for the Wachovian contribution to the state's economy.⁵ In 1779 the North Carolina Legislature passed an act regranting the Moravians their land and other rights they had previously enjoyed under colonial rule provided they would take an oath of allegiance to North Carolina by the following May. The brethren were finally relieved of military duty by paying a triple tax, which continued until 1783. Bethania's only physical involvement with the war was on February 9, 1781, when the British army under General Cornwallis occupied the town for the night, quartering themselves in different houses and confiscating thirty cattle, numerous sheep, geese, chickens and two wagons of flour, seventeen horses and many personal belongings. The loss amounted to 1,500 pounds "valued in good money."⁶

By the late eighteenth century, because of better communications and the westward movement of population, Moravians had increasing contact with "strangers" who brought different customs and language. In 1789 "Br. Jacob Loesch began an English school with fourteen youths and boys." On Sunday, March 19, 1809, at the consecration of the present church building, English had so invaded the town that although the morning sermon was preached in German, English was spoken during the afternoon services.⁸ By 1822 the Moravian church's control of secular affairs had nearly disappeared, for in this year the church abolished the lease system under which all Bethania property had been held since 1759, and residents began to purchase their lots. The Bethania Moravian Records note on December 14, 1822: "Today most of the house-fathers in the town bought the land which they have hitherto held under lease, each taking twenty or more acres of woodland in the process."⁹

As nearby Salem prospered and travel became easier, Bethania lost its earlier self-sufficiency and became a satellite community of Salem. Bethania's nineteenth century industry consisted of several small tobacco factories, one tiny woolen factory, and various saw and grist mills and tanneries. Two of the factories were developed and operated by the Lash family, Bethania's foremost nineteenth century mercantilists. Patriarch John Christian Lash owned a general store (which stood until the early twentieth century beside his house at the southwest corner of Main Street and Loesch's Lane), a tanyard, saw mill, grist mill and farm. Soon after his death in 1841 his sons Israel G. and Thomas B. established a cigar factory. By 1860 the factory was valued at \$10,000, and the brothers owned forty slaves who probably provided labor.¹⁰ In 1881, Bethania was described in an industrial directory as ". . . long ago widely known as the seat of the extensive cigar factory of Lash & Bros. That has long been closed, but has been succeeded by the plug and twist factory of O. J. Lehman & Co., who make about one hundred thousand pounds yearly." The only other industry listed in Bethania in the Industrial Census of 1860 was a small tannery and a tobacco factory owned by Anderson & Brothers, valued at \$1,500.

The Civil War, which apparently forced the Lash Cigar Factory out of business, also demonstrated how diluted the influence of Moravian religious tenets in Bethania had become.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE three

Many Bethania men, including O. J. Lehman, James H. Conrad, Will N. Burner, and Levin J. Stroupe, enlisted in the 33rd North Carolina Regiment formed in nearby Pfafftown at the opening of the war. Once again Bethania was occupied, though only for three hours, on the evening of May 10, 1865, by General Stoneman and his forces, en route to Salisbury. The greatest inconvenience of this visit was the loss of horses.¹¹

The Lehman & Company Plug and Twist Tobacco Factory was active until 1896. Thomas B. Lash also operated a small woolen mill behind the Lash General Store from before 1881 to his death in 1888. An observer wrote in 1902 that Bethania ". . . has not lost in size and numbers, though business has been diverted to the line of the railroad, some two miles away."¹²

Today Bethania, a Winston-Salem suburb, does not even contain a country store. Its only commercial activities are an antique shop and a small furniture restoration shop. The village is now undergoing a renaissance, with four pre-Civil War houses now under restoration. It appears that Bethania will be preserved as a Moravian village, but it is likely to retain the distinction which has set it apart from the other Moravian communities--Bethabara, a historical park operated by the city of Winston-Salem, and Salem, owned and operated by Old Salem, Inc. Bethania's revitalization is the result of spontaneous efforts by individual property owners.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

¹ Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, ed. by Adelaide L. Fries, Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1922. Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Vol. I, hereinafter cited as Moravian Records.

² Ibid, pp. 206-207.

³ Moravian Records, Vol. I, p. 241.

⁴ The Three Forks of Muddy Creek, Vol. I, ed. by Frances Griffin. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Old Salem, Inc. 1974, p. 26-27.

⁵ Clewell, John Henry. History of Wachovia in North Carolina. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1902, p. 127, hereinafter cited as Clewell's History.

⁶ Moravian Records, Vol. 4, pp. 1765-1766.

⁷ Ibid, Vol. 5, p. 2289.

⁸ Ibid, Vol. 7, p. 3099.

⁹ Ibid, Vol. 7, pp. 3513, 3525.

¹⁰ North Carolina Section of Archives and Records. 1860 Industrial Schedule of the United States Census of Forsyth County.

¹¹ "Morabilia for Bethania, 1865," unpublished manuscript in the collection of the Moravian Archives of the Southern Province, 4 East Bank St., Salem, North Carolina.

¹² Clewell's History, op. cit. p. 283.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

- Collections of Mrs. John Butner, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hipp, Bethania Griffin, Frances, ed. The Three Forks of Muddy Creek. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Old Salem, Inc., 1974, Volume I.
- Hall, Harry H. A Johnny Reb Band from Salem: The Pride of Tarheelia. Raleigh: The North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, 1963.
- Lehman, Emma A. "Houses in Bethania of the Olden Times, 1916." Unpublished manuscript, copy on file in Survey and Planning Branch.
- _____. "Sketch of Bethania for the Sesqui-Centennial in '1909," published in Sesqui-Centennial, Bethania Congregation, 1759-1909. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Union Publishing Co.
- "Memorabilia for Bethania, 1865," unpublished manuscript in the collection of the Moravian Archives of the Southern Province, 4 East Bank Street, Salem, North Carolina.
- Murtagh, William J. Moravian Architecture and Town Planning. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967.
- North Carolina Archives and Records Section.
- Forsyth County Records, Forsyth County Courthouse, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
- Forsyth County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
- Smith, Minnie J., Hamilton, Kenneth J., eds. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina. Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., 1922-1969, Volumes I and II.
- Stokes County Records, Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).
- Stokes County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).
- United States Census Records, 1860: Forsyth County, North Carolina, Population and Industrial schedules.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bethania Watercolor, 1820, by unknown artist. Original in possession of present Bethania Moravian Church minister, Kenneth Robinson.

Cameron, John D. A Sketch of the Tobacco Interests of North Carolina. Oxford, North Carolina: W. A. Davis & Co., 1881.

Clewell, John Henry. History of Wachovia in North Carolina. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres L&L: NW 36° 11' 15" 80° 20' 26"
 NE 36° 11' 15" 80° 20' 05"
 SE 36° 10' 16" 80° 20' 05"
 SW 36° 10' 16" 80° 20' 26"

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little-Stokes, survey specialist

ORGANIZATION

Division of Archives and History

DATE

2 December 1975

STREET & NUMBER

109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE

919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Ruth Little-Stokes

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2 December 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER