

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Conrad-Starbuck House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 118 South Cherry Street

N/A  not for publication

city, town Winston-Salem

N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina

code N.C.

county Forsyth

code 067

zip code 27101

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official William J. Fair

Date 4-19-90

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC- single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC- apartments

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HEALTH CARE- clinic

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COMMERCE/TRADE- professional

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

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walls brick

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roof slate

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other wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Conrad-Starbuck House is a two-and-a-half-story house, which is articulated primarily in the Italianate style. It sits on an irregularly shaped one-third acre lot on South Cherry Street, part of a once-stylish neighborhood developed in the late 19th century by prominent Winston-Salem residents. It is bounded on the south side by I-40, which passes the house in a "cut" approximately thirty feet deep, and on the north side by a parking lot; the house faces an interstate exit ramp across Cherry Street to the east, and a small parcel to the rear separates the property from Marshall Street.

The Conrad-Starbuck House is a common-bond brick, double-pile structure with a dormered, side-gabled roofline and a three-bay facade featuring a projecting central bay. Sanborn insurance maps indicate that this bay originally was a three-story tower and that the top level was removed between 1912-1917. The roofline is defined by a modillioned wooden cornice. Originally, two interior chimneys rose from the roof ridge. These were in deteriorated condition and were removed by the current owner, who plans to have the chimneys reconstructed from detailed drawings made prior to removal. The chimneys were embellished by blind arches four inches in depth. The three dormers, symmetrically placed on each flank of the slate-covered roof, have round-arch, two-over-two windows between pilasters rising to molded gable returns. The sides of the dormers are sheathed in slate. Because the dormers, particularly their windows, are in keeping with the overall Italianate styling of the house, it is not certain if they are original (except for the middle one on the front, which would have been installed when the top of the tower was removed), or if all were added at the time of the tower alteration. The Sanborn map for 1907 shows a full-facade front porch, which conforms to the lines of the house. According to the application for historic designation by the city of Winston-Salem, the porch was replaced in 1924 with a more classical, full-facade porch, which also followed the form of the house. This porch was removed and replaced with a metal awning in the early 1950s. Metal railings rise along the one-bay wide steps, which lead to the entry. A portion of the porch deck still remains with an inconspicuous access (handicap) ramp added to the north end.

The brickwork of the side elevations is exceptional. Both stories of each bay are slightly recessed, so that the bays appear to be separated vertically by a pilaster. Above the second-story windows is a single course of mouse-toothing running the full width of each bay, topped by an horizontal, recessed panel of the same width.

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The windows are typically Italianate, set in segmental-arch openings and topped by a soldier course lintel and brick segmental-arch hood. This configuration is echoed in the fan- and sidelighted entry. The main facade first-story windows are three feet by twelve feet and triple-hung with large double-pane sashes extending to the foundation. Most of the second-story windows contain two long, narrow panes in each sash and measure three feet by nine feet; those in the projecting front central bay are one-over-one. The side elevations contain windows with the same configuration found in the front, upper story, with one exception on the north side. Here, a first-story window has a replacement upper sash with twenty panes and is flanked by two smaller 20-pane windows at a level with the replaced sash. This change appears to be early. Each attic gable contains a segmental-arch window with soldier course lintel and one-over-one sashes.

There are several rear additions, most of which are early. Circa 1907, the original detached brick kitchen was connected to the north end of the rear elevation by the enclosure of a rear porch. Between 1912-1917, two small, one-story brick additions were made to the northern, kitchen ell, and a two-story addition, brick at the lower level and frame above, was put next to it on the south end of the rear elevation. The windows in the lower, brick portion of the latter addition copy the segmental-arch form of the original windows. A small, one-room brick addition to the southwest end and a frame bathroom on the west end of the northern ell were built by the current owner. There is a noncontributing post-WWII galvanized steel garage to the north of the house.

The interior of the Conrad-Starbuck House has a central-hall plan with 15.8-foot square rooms on the first and second floors. The original house walls are plaster over thick brick. There are fourteen-foot ceilings throughout the house. On the south side of the structure, lower ceilings have been installed to conceal damage sustained from the construction of I-40, which the current owner plans to repair. The original pine floors remain throughout. An original, open string stair, which rises on the south wall from front to back to a landing before turning east toward the second floor, highlights the centre hall. A heavy turned newel punctuates the base of the stairs, followed by turned balusters leading to a paneled, square post on the second level.

The former parlor (front, north side) is the most elaborate room in the house. Its ornate, foliated ceiling medallion and crown molding remain intact. The ceiling medallion is octagonal with picot-like

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protrusions alternating with embossed circles and picots marking each change of angle. The crown molding is an elaborate horizontal swirl of foliage broken by occasional vertical pairings of leaves. The Italianate mantel, with decoration comparable to the plaster molding, has been covered with plyboards but is unchanged. The mantel in the former study (front, south side) consists of a mantel shelf supported by pilasters with bulbous cornices. The room behind the study boasts a robust mantel with embossed concentric circles flanked by raised panels, concave along the circles and coming to a point at the other end, along the frieze. The plain mantel shelf is supported by pilasters with raised slightly tapered panels with concave ends, bosses, and pendants. A similar mantel is in the former dining room (rear, north side). The first floor mantels all appear to be original. The second-floor mantels are identical Colonial Revival replacements, apparently installed by the Starbucks ca. 1907-1912, when other changes to the house were made. They are framed by plain pilasters with mirrored overmantels. Colonnets sit on the mantel shelf and support a cornice. Two of the second-floor fireplaces have hearths laid in beautiful, Italian tiles, which date to pre-1900 (author conversation with current owner, 08-18-89).

The five-panel doors have fluted surrounds with cornerblocks decorated with embossed circles. The four upstairs rooms contain closets with four-panel doors and fluted surrounds. Above the closets are storage areas with two-panel doors and fluted surrounds. A more recent closet replicates the originals.

The interior of the north, rear ell features exposed brick walls of the original kitchen and tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling of the original rear porch. The ca. 1912-1917 two-story brick and frame addition provides a first-floor room, which opens off the original porch; the upstairs is completely sheathed in tongue-and-groove and includes a bathroom. An additional second-floor bathroom is on the rear above the northern ell, and two kitchenettes have been installed in the front tower.

The Conrad-Starbuck House remains an excellent, rare example of the Italianate style in Winston-Salem. The architectural integrity of the house is basically intact. The central tower is apparent, despite the removal of its third-story, and the detailed drawings of the two, original interior chimneys will allow their reconstruction. Most of the additions are early, to the rear, and unobtrusive. The recent interior changes are non-structural and easily reversible.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1884

Significant Dates  
1884

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Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

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Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Conrad-Starbuck House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a well-preserved, relatively intact, and rare example of the Italianate in Winston-Salem. It is the city's sole surviving example of an Italianate-style brick residence and is one of a handful of large and stylish houses remaining along South Cherry Street in a once-fashionable neighborhood, which was occupied by prominent late nineteenth-century residents. The two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, brick house displays its Italianate pedigree in the modillioned cornice, segmental-arch, hooded windows, and symmetrical massing with projecting central pavilion, indicating the original three-story tower. Its side elevations contain outstanding brickwork, which includes mouse-toothing and recessed panels. The house's side-gable form is unusual for the Italianate, but it is a form found commonly in North Carolina, that does not detract from the overall Italianate character of the structure. On the interior, the original central-hall plan is unaltered, and much of the architectural fabric remains intact: four original first-story Italianate mantels, stair, woodwork, and plaster moldings and ceiling medallion. The original detached, brick kitchen was connected to the house early in the twentieth-century by the enclosure of a rear porch. The original brickwork of the kitchen and the tongue-and-groove woodwork of the porch contribute to the make-up of the house's rear, one-story ell. The house was built in 1884 by John Calvin Conrad, a leader in Winston-Salem's Moravian community, who was also active in the city's civic affairs. In 1904, he sold the house to Henry R. Starbuck, a prominent North Carolina political figure, who was born in Winston-Salem and practiced law there for sixty years.

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The Italianate style became popular in the mid-nineteenth century as a break from the formal styling of the long-lived classical movement. It was introduced to the American public via architects Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing (Taylor, p. 48). It featured square towers or cupolas, arched windows with elaborate crowns, long, narrow windows, and low-pitched roofs with overhanging eaves braced by decorative brackets.

In North Carolina, the Italianate was introduced in 1841, with what is believed to be the remodelling of the Bank of Cape Fear in Wilmington by New York architect John Norse (conversation with Catherine Bishir, 01/24/90). In 1844, A. J. Davis designed Blandwood in Guilford County, which is thought to be the oldest extant example of the Italian Villa style in the United States (National Register nomination, March, 1970). Its popularity waned somewhat in the 1850s and 1860s, but there was a resurgence of the style beginning in the 1870s. The first appearance of the Italianate in North Carolina was primarily in the eastern section of the state, but its later phase was statewide. Its use in residential architecture had virtually ended by the early 1890s (conversation with Michael T. Southern, 01/26/90).

During the 1870s and 1880s, Winston-Salem experienced a period of great economic and physical growth, generated by its prospering tobacco and lumber industries, along with numerous other smaller businesses (Taylor, p. 35). The city, then the twin towns of Winston and Salem, was located on a trade route of the Northwest North Carolina Railroad, facilitating the importation of national styles and ideas, including the latest trends in architectural forms. Winston-Salem's business and civic leaders built their new homes in these popular styles, creating fashionable new residential areas of elaborate structures.

One of these stylish neighborhoods developed along South Cherry Street and the surrounding vicinity, located near the downtown area. Few of its high-style homes remain standing. The Conrad-Starbuck House, built 1884, exhibits Italianate detailing on a side-gabled structure, a form commonly found in North Carolina; the Captain Mitchell Rodgers House (NR), 1883-1885, is a blend of Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, and Italianate; and Hylehurst (NR), 1884, is executed in the Queen Anne. These and a few other remaining homes reflect the diversity of architectural styles available in the late nineteenth century in both Winston-Salem and the United States.

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The Conrad-Starbuck House is significant as one of the few extant houses exhibiting the Italianate style of architecture in Winston-Salem and the only remaining residential example in brick. Its architectural integrity is basically intact. The square, central tower on the main facade, albeit shortened, remains an identifying element and the modillioned cornice, segmental-arch, long, narrow windows, and segmental-arch hoods are further indications of the Italianate. The interior also retains its Italianate flavor, as seen in the stair, mantels, and plaster molding and ceiling medallion. Its side-gabled roof is atypical of the Italianate, but it is not unique. There are other examples of this form, commonly found in North Carolina, on houses utilizing Italianate detailing. A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester references two such houses in North Carolina. The Murdoch-Wiley House in Salisbury Historic District (NR) is a substantial, brick, double-pile, five-bay house with wide, heavily bracketed eaves and a cupola. The Andrews House in Raleigh (in the Certified Blount Street Historic District) is a frame example with a bracketed Triple-A roofline.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The original owner of the Conrad-Starbuck House was John Calvin Conrad, who was born in Yadkin County, North Carolina on November 16, 1840.<sup>1</sup> He was of German descent with strong roots in the the Moravian religion. His parents, Isaac and Antoinette Conrad, raised him on a farm along the Yadkin River. Conrad was educated as a boy at the local schools and later at the University of North Carolina.

In 1873, Conrad married Mary Knight Connor in Galveston, Texas. He brought his bride to North Carolina to live on the Conrad family farm until 1884, at which time Conrad relocated his wife and three daughters to the house he built on Cherry Street at the northwest reaches of the town of Salem. Shortly after the move, the oldest daughter died, and two years later, Conrad lost his wife and infant daughter.

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<sup>1</sup>The information on J. C. Conrad is taken from "Memoirs of John Calvin Conrad" written on the day of his death by Mr. Frank Matthews and Mrs. Sallie Glover. The document, housed in the Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem, was prepared for Conrad's funeral, which would have been typically Moravian, at which detailed and often anecdotal biographies of the deceased are presented. Their funerals exemplify the Moravian penchant for chronicling all aspects of life.

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Conrad was a leader in Salem's Moravian community, as well as participating in civic concerns. In 1885, he joined Home Moravian Church and became involved in its activities. He twice served as a commissioner for the town of Salem. He also operated a dairy in east Winston. According to the "Memoirs of John Calvin Conrad," written on the day of his death by his half-brother and sister, Conrad continued to take an interest in the family farm, despite his busy urban life. He supervised its operation, making frequent visits and spending a part of his summers there. On August 1, 1904, Conrad and his two daughters, along with their husbands, sold the house on South Cherry Street to Henry R. Starbuck (Forsyth County Deed Book 74, page 7).

Henry R. Starbuck was born to D. H. and Ellen Starbuck in the town of Winston, Forsyth, North Carolina on August 15, 1866.<sup>2</sup> His family, like Conrad's, was Moravian and attended Home Moravian Church. Starbuck was educated at the Salem Boys School, a Moravian concern. In 1887, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, then read under George M. Folk at Happy Valley in Wilkes County, North Carolina. He was admitted to the Bar in 1888, and returned to Winston to practice his craft. Starbuck married Nancy Lee Agurs in 1891. They had five children.

Starbuck apparently was a gifted lawyer and led an illustrious career. Like his father, also a politician, he was a staunch Republican. In 1894, Starbuck was elected by predominantly Democratic Forsyth County as a judge of Superior Court. At the time, he was the youngest man to sit on the North Carolina bench. In 1909 and, again, 1911, he was elected to the State Senate. Starbuck also served for several terms as judge for Forsyth County Court, created in 1915 to alleviate the Superior Court case load. Judge Henry R. Starbuck practiced law in Winston-Salem for 60 years and was well-known to its residents, as his obituary in the June 21, 1958 edition of the Twin City Sentinel attests: "His white hair, wing collar and black bow tie made him a familiar figure to many Twin Citians."

Judge Starbuck resided in the Conrad-Starbuck House until he sold it on May 30, 1941, to his son, William Agurs Starbuck (Forsyth County

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<sup>2</sup>The information on H. R. Starbuck is a compilation of facts from "Judge H. R. Starbuck Dies Here at Age 91," Twin City Sentinel, June 21, 1958, and from an excerpt on the judge from Conner's North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth, 1584-1925, Vol. 4.

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Harry P. Taylor, 1946; Donald Nelson Ball, 1948; Mary Gay, 1954; and the current owner, Dr. Isabel Bittinger, 1955. The Conrad-Starbuck House was built as and for most of its 106 years remained a single family dwelling. The current owner has divided the house into her medical clinic, a rented room, and her living quarters in the rear ell on the first floor, and professional offices on the second level.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately 1/3 acre

UTM References

A 

1	7	5	6	7	7	8	0	3	9	9	4	3	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the entire parcel 108D and a portion of 107D as indicated by a bold line on the enclosed Forsyth County Tax Map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the entire city lot currently associated with the Conrad-Starbuck House.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Margaret L. Rothman, staff  
organization North Carolina Historic Preservation Office date March, 1990  
street & number 109 E. Jones Street telephone 919/733-6545  
city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27601-2807

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**Continuation Sheet** Conrad-Starbuck House, Forsyth County

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The Following information pertains to all photographs except where noted. The configuration of the lot and its dense foliage make photographing the rear of the house virtually impossible.

1. Conrad-Starbuck House
2. Winston-Salem, N C
3. Margaret L. Rothman
4. 12/89
5. North Carolina Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, N C

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1. 6) front view, looking west
  2. 6) south elevation, looking northwest
  3. 3) Gail Gillespie
  - 4) 1988
  - 6) north elevation, looking south
  4. 6) south elevation, detail of brickwork, looking NNW
  5. 6) detail of crown molding in former parlor
  6. 6) mantel in (former) study
  7. 6) tile in upstairs (former) bedroom
  8. 6) detail of brickwork and woodwork in northern rear ell

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF I  
DEPARTMENT OF NATUR  
RALEIGH, I

4956 III NE  
(RURAL HALL)

80°15'  
36°07'30"

568000m.E

MT. AIRY 36 MI.  
RURAL HALL 7.7 MI.

569

570

571 12'30"

LENNIS VAH  
WALKERTOWN JUNG N. 0.00146 MI. (WAL

3997000m.N

3996

YACKINVILLE 29 MI.  
IPFAFTOWN 8.3 MI.

CONRAD-STARBUCK  
HOUSE  
118 S. CHERRY ST.  
WINSTON-SALEM EAST  
QUAD

ZONE 17  
N: 3994360  
E: 567780



