

Trinity Museum/Winslow House c. 1855
7524 N.C. Highway 62, Trinity, N.C.

History of Trinity Museum/Winslow House

The 1855 Winslow House is one of about ten antebellum era houses left in the Old Trinity College (now Duke University) area of Highway 62, Trinity, North Carolina. Of local historical importance are the Heitman House, home of a Trinity College professor and president of the college, and the S.B. Weeks House, home of a very well known Trinity College history professor. Although these two houses are side by side, the remaining antebellum houses are widely scattered. None of the similar houses have the structural integrity of the Winslow House. All the remaining antebellum houses are in private ownership, with two currently up for sale.

The 1855 houses maintains high levels of structural integrity, and has been well maintained since its construction in 1855. The obvious rear porch addition was probably constructed in the early 1950's. To the rear of the house is the "Old Trinity Train Depot Warehouse". This is all that remains of the Trinity Train Depot. The railroad warehouse building currently has three parts; the original warehouse, and two newer additions on either end located on the site of the 1855 Winslow House. The N.C. Railroad built a branch line from High Point to Asheboro in 1889 with the first train arriving in Asheboro on July 4, 1889. The Trinity Depot would have been on this line, but the depot warehouse on the Winslow site has probably built between 1900 and 1910. The Railroad likely did routine maintenance on the warehouse as needed, until the building was acquired by Thomas Richardson in 1945. He, and his wife and son, Jess, founded Richardson Furniture in the warehouse while it was still located on the Railroad right-of-way. The Richardsons later made structural changes necessary to support their business, including the construction of two newer additions to the structure. Jess Richardson and his wife, Ella, bought the Winslow House and moved the building onto the rear of the property in 1948. Due to ill health, the Richardson's sold the business in 1975, but the structure continued to be used by furniture makers as a warehouse.

The 1855 Winslow House, and the Train Depot Warehouse both have historical significance because their location has provided a unique and distinctive structure representing an established and familiar visual presence in the City of Trinity and Randolph County, N.C. In addition, the Train Depot Warehouse building has historical significance in its own right and is currently being submitted for the National Registry, not only because it is all that remains of the Trinity Railway Station (with its associated ties to the transportation industry of Randolph County, Trinity, and the larger N.C. Piedmont area), but because it connects Randolph County's manufacturing history to the modern furniture industry.

The Trinity Historic Preservation Society now owns the property, which includes the 1855 Winslow House. The Winslow House is now used for a Trinity/Community

Museum, and outbuildings are used for related storage.

The Dr. Thomas L. Winslow House, now the Trinity Museum, was built c. 1855. The large pane 6/6 windows, two panel interior doors, Greek Revival mantels, and Mortise and Tenon construction, indicate the period of construction. The entrance, with three pane sidelights and corner-blocked trim, is set in a small area of flush siding. Weatherboards cover the rest of the facade. This indicates the present porch replaces an earlier smaller porch. The wide overhang of the roof supported by sawn rafter ends, may be original and is perhaps a reference to the popular Italianate style of this period.

The Trinity Historic Preservation Society does not have a record of Dr. Winslow's medical background, however, it was a common practice of the time for a young man to read medicine with an established doctor. In the diary of Phoebe Jane Brown of 1859 and 1860, she mentions several times the visit of Dr. Winslow to their home to attend her mother.

Dr. Winslow was born on March 7, 1820, in Perquimans County, N.C. He died on August 6, 1902, and is buried in Trinity Cemetery.

There is no record of deed showing he owned the house, but in July of 1870, he married Mary Ann "Annie" Leak, whose family built the house. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Shaw Leak, who were residents of Trinity. At that time, the laws of N.C. forbade a woman from owning property, therefore Annie was placed under the legal umbrella of her husband. Only the husband could act for her in any legal matters. This explains how Thomas L. Winslow and wife, Annie, sold to Mordecia Mendenhall, a parcel of land and house in Trinity in the year 1872. A deed can not be located that gives other explanation to how Dr. Winslow acquired the land. The deed of transfer describes the house, but not how Dr. Winslow obtained the property.

From 1872 until 1905, no deed transactions are found. We do know that James Charles White was born in the house on March 7, 1874, and that the White family lived in the house for several years. In 1905, the Clark Payne family purchased the house and lived there until 1945. At this time, the house was sold to Jesse and Ella Richardson. The Richardsons made some minor alterations to the inside of the house and lived there until 2003.

In 2003, Ella Richardson deeded the House to the Trinity Historical Preservation Society to be used as a Museum.

The 1855 Winslow House is located on a .92 acre tract on Highway 62, City of Trinity, N.C. Highway 62 is a main commercial and transportation artery for the City of Trinity and the northwest section of Randolph County. Efforts are currently underway by the City of Trinity, to design planning and development guidelines that would maintain the unique historical character of the city and community along this Highway 62 Corridor.

There are three accessory structures located on the property, in addition to the 1855

Trinity Museum/Winslow House. These structures are the old Trinity train depot, and two accessory storage buildings. Railroad track easements are located to the rear of the property.

Sources for this report include the *Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina*, 1985, by L. McKay Whatley; and historical data compiled and maintained by the Trinity Historic Preservation Society, Trinity, North Carolina.