

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Salem Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

Salem Tavern

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 736-800 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Winston-Salem

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Forsyth

CODE

067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Old Salem, Inc. (leased from Wachovia Historical Society)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Drawer F - Salem Station

CITY, TOWN

Winston-Salem

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Forsyth County Registry of Deeds  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Winston-Salem

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE North Carolina Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

in progress

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Section

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

## 7 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED restored	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Salem Tavern is located on the west side of South Main Street (number 736-800) in the restored area of Old Salem, now part of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. To the north of it is a second hostelry, a 2½-story frame and clapboard building with gabled roof, which was built in 1816 when the main tavern could no longer accommodate the growing number of visitors arriving in Salem; this building now serves as a restaurant. To the south is a period barn moved to this location in 1961; a frame and clapboard structure on a coursed fieldstone foundation, it has been restored and now houses a collection of early agricultural implements.

The Salem Tavern, the first brick building in Salem, was constructed in 1784 on the foundations of the town's original ordinary, a half-timbered wooden structure which had been destroyed by fire. The design of the building, the work of skilled craftsmen, is characterized by clean lines, excellent proportions, and simple but fine detailing.

The Tavern consists of two elements, a 2½-story rectangular main block and a 2-story rear ell, both with gabled roof. The roof of the main block is broken at either end of the ridge line by interior chimneys with corbelled tops and by a single gabled dormer at the center of the forward slope. A third interior chimney is located at the western end of the ell. A 1-story wooden porch with shed roof runs the length of the tavern's five-bay front (east) facade. Windows in the main block are 6/6 double-hung sash while those in the ell are casement type; all are topped by blind arches.

The interior plan of the Salem Tavern follows that of most contemporary ordinaries. The main doorway leads into a broad center hall with a staircase at its rear. To the left (south) is the "public room," to the right the "gentlemen's room" where more formal service was available at a higher price. Guest chambers are located on the second floor and additional sleeping quarters in the attic story. The ell contains the landlord's quarters and further chambers on the first and second floors and a huge kitchen with twin fireplaces at the cellar level. All of the rooms have white, plastered walls and some have exposed beams. Decorative detailing is limited to the simple, molded mantels of the fireplaces.

Though deteriorated, the Tavern was essentially unaltered when leased by Old Salem, Inc. in 1953. With the aid of construction records and furniture inventories preserved in the archives of Salem's Moravian congregation, the Tavern was restored in 1956 to its appearance c. 1800. Since that time it has been maintained in excellent condition.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Travel	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1784 BUILDER/ARCHITECT not known

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salem Tavern, a 2½-story brick building with gabled roof, was constructed in 1784 to replace an earlier tavern on the same site. The architectural integrity and authentic, though not original, furnishings of the building make it an outstanding example of the type of ordinary to be found throughout the South during the late 18th century.

The Salem Tavern was erected by the Moravian congregation that established Salem, North Carolina. The building is now owned by the Wachovia Historical Society but since 1953 has been leased to Old Salem, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to preserve the historic buildings of the original congregation town of Salem. In 1956 Old Salem Inc. restored the Salem Tavern to its appearance c. 1800 and now operates the building as a museum.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Salem, North Carolina, was founded by members of the Moravian religious group, devout Germanic people who traced their faith to the 15th century Bohemian martyr John Hus. The new town was to be the center of their Wachovia settlement, a tract of nearly 100,000 acres which the group had purchased in the early 1750's from Lord Granville, last of North Carolina's Lords Proprietors. It was to be a planned, congregation town in which the church held title to all the land and to the major buildings on it and directed the economic as well as the spiritual affairs of the residents.

The Moravians began work on the first building at Salem in 1766 and by 1772 had laid out and constructed the nucleus of the community. Among the original buildings were the Gemeinhaus (the meeting house and minister's residence), Single Brothers and Single Sisters houses, a mill and sawmill, a store, and a tavern. The latter was considered a necessity for the town's development as a trading center.

The present Salem Tavern was the first brick building in the town. Begun in January, 1784, it was constructed on the foundations of the original tavern, a half-timbered wooden structure which had been destroyed by fire. The Tavern gained a wide reputation for its hospitality and comfort and most of the distinguished visitors to Salem lodged there. On his Southern tour of 1791, George Washington was entertained in Salem for two days, occupying the chamber at the northeast corner of the Tavern above the "gentlemen's room."

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	5 6 8 2 4 0	3 9 9 3 4 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Horace J. Sheely, Jr., 4/4/63

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service</u>	<u>6/5/75</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>1100 L Street NW.</u>	<u>202-523-5464</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Washington</u>	<u>D.C. 20240</u>

## 12 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark JAN 29 1964  
 Designated: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boundary Condition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheely  
 12/7/77 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

LANDMARKS

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

12/7/77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Salem's importance as a commercial center for western North Carolina grew steadily during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. By 1816, the Salem Tavern was no longer able to accommodate the number of visitors arriving in the town and a second building was constructed immediately north of it to serve the over-flow.

By the mid-20th century, the old town of Salem had been absorbed into the modern city of Winston-Salem. Though essentially unaltered, the Tavern, like others of the Moravian buildings, had become deteriorated. This trend was reversed when the historic area was threatened in 1947 with permanent damage by the construction of a major supermarket and other commercial development. By 1950 the citizens of Winston-Salem, with the support of the city government, had formed a nonprofit organization, Old Salem, Inc., to rehabilitate and preserve the buildings and historic character of Old Salem.

In 1953 Old Salem Inc. acquired a 50-year lease to the Salem Tavern from its owner, the Wachovia Historical Society, and within three years was able to undertake a complete restoration of the building. The primary resource for this work was the meticulous records in the archives of the Moravian congregation, which contained not only information on the construction of the Tavern but also periodic inventories of its contents. The Tavern has now been returned to its appearance c. 1800 and furnished with authentic pieces of that period. Like other restored buildings in Old Salem, the Salem Tavern is now operated as a museum; it is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays. A general admission fee is charged.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Davis, Chester S. Hidden Seed and Harvest: A History of the Moravians  
(Winston-Salem, 1973).

Griffin, Frances. Old Salem: An Adventure in Historic Preservation  
(Winston-Salem, 1970).

Lefler, Hugh T. and Albert R. Newsome. The History of a Southern State,  
North Carolina (Chapel Hill, 1954).

Old Salem, Inc. "Old Salem" (pamphlet, Winston-Salem, n.p., n.d.).

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Beginning at the intersection of the center lines of South Main Street and Blum Street; thence, westerly in a direct line to a point in the eastern curblineline of the access road from Walnut Street to the Old Salem Reception Center; thence, southerly along said eastern curblineline 150 feet to a point; thence, easterly in a direct line to the center line of South Main Street; thence, northerly along said center line to the point of beginning.

Note: though partially included in these boundaries for convenience in definition, the barn which stands immediately south of the Salem Tavern does not contribute to the national significance of the landmark building.