### NAME
**HISTORIC**
Salem Tavern

**AND/OR COMMON**
Salem Tavern

### LOCATION
**STREET & NUMBER**
736-800 South Main Street

**CITY, TOWN**
Winston-Salem

**STATE**
North Carolina

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

**STREET & NUMBER**
County Court House

**CITY, TOWN**
Winston-Salem

**STATE**
North Carolina

### CLASSIFICATION

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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
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### OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

**STREET & NUMBER**
Drawer F - Salem Station

**CITY, TOWN**
Winston-Salem

**STATE**
North Carolina

### REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**
North Carolina Inventory of Historic Properties

**DATE**
in progress

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**
Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Section

**CITY, TOWN**
Raleigh

**STATE**
North Carolina
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
Physical Description, Salem Tavern, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The Salem Tavern is located on the west side of South Main Street (number 736-500) 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.
### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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**SPECIFIC DATES** 1764

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Statement of Significance, Salem Tavern, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The Salem Tavern, a 2½-story brick building with gabled roof, was constructed in 1764 to replace an earlier tavern on the same site. The architectural integrity and authenticity, 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 Salem Historical Society but since 1952 has been leased to Old Salem, Inc., a non-profit 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 the Moravian 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 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
The Tavern gained a wide reputation for its hospitality and comfort and most of the distinguished visitors to Salem lodged there. In 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".

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 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 non-profit 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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Old Salem, Inc. "Old Salem" (pamphlet, Winston-Salem, n.p., n.d.).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES

ZONE
EASTING
NORTHING

A [17] 516,83,4,0
B
C
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
Beginning at the intersection of the center lines of South Main Street and Plum Street; thence, westerly in a direct line to a point in the eastern curvilinear of the access road from Main Street to the Old Salem Reception Center; thence, easterly along said eastern curvilinear 150 feet to a point; thence, easterly in a direct line to the center line of South Main Street; thence, westerly along said (continued)

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

STATE
CODE
COUNTY
CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE: Polly H. Metzger, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Grace J. Scoley, Jr., 4/4/62
ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service
STREET & NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW
TELEPHONE: 292-523-5464
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, District of Columbia
STATE:

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE
Salem Tavern, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Completion Sheet

Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

center line to the point of beginning.

Note: Though included in these boundaries for convenience in definition, the barn which stands immediately south of the Salem Tavern is not included in the National Historic Landmark designation for it does not contribute to the significance of the landmark building.