

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION FORM  
(Additional Sheets of Paper will be necessary for  
complete documentation)

MUSEUM

Please type or print

1. Owner's name and address:
2. Location of property:
3. Tax Block \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Lot \_\_\_\_\_
4. When was the building erected? For whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame). Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.
5. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the building? (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.) Do any architect's plan or building accounts exist? Where?
6. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
7. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom? (i.e., a quick chain of title). If possible, please give some background on each occupant. (i.e., occupations or other interesting facts). List the sources of your information.
8. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
9. What is the significance of this property? (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.
10. Describe the present condition of the property.
11. Is the property listed in any existing Historic Register or survey? (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places or any other state or local history). If so, please give the title of the listing.

The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

August 18, 1982  
Date

John C. Lauer  
Signature of Property Owner(s)  
Mailing address:

Drawer F, Salem Station

Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108

Telephone: [REDACTED]

PAID  
9/28/82  
RR

1. Old Salem, Inc.  
Drawer F. Salem Station  
Winston-Salem, NC 27108
2. 600 South Main Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
3. Tax Block 567 Tax Lot 105
4. Single Brothers's House 1769 Lot 62

The first half of the Single Brother's House, on the corner of Main and Academy Streets, was raised in 1768, and occupied by the Brothers in the following year. The addition was completed in 1786. 2

5. The plans of the original part of the Single Brother's house and those of the 1785 addition, which are on file at Old Salem, are mentioned in the records, however, there is no mention of an architect or carpenter. The original stone foundation was laid in a ceremony by Brethern Lorenz Bagge and Adrea Gros. 3
6. Old Salem, Inc. has on file photographs of the Single Brothers' House which date ca. 1870 and later. Other visual representations of the building can be found in the following documents of which copies are on file at Old Salem:

Maps: "Salem about the year 1840"  
 "Bird's Eye View of Winston-Salem, 1891"  
 "Map of Salem, North Carolina, Stokes Co.,  
 September 20, 1822"  
 Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1895, 1900, 1912, 1917  
 "Report of the Committee appointed to lay  
 out the Town of Salem according to the principles  
 adopted since 1819 - February 15, 1821"

7. The Single Brother's House has remained in the Salem Moravian Church Diacony since it was built. It is now leased by the Church Diacony to Old Salem, Inc. Deed extract, Forsyth Co. Tax Office
8. The Single Brother's House was used for lodging for the young single men of Salem, and also provided rooms for the brother's trades and professions. Today it is used as an exhibit building and for Old Salem Offices.
9. The historic district of Old Salem was designated a "Registered National Historic Landmark" by the U. S. Department of the Interior in 1966. Within this landmark are unrestored, restored and reconstructed buildings, which, as a whole, present an authentic architectural representation of the community of Salem between 1766 and 1856. This structure is considered by the Historic District Commission to be an integral and contributing part of the total landscape and subject to Zoning Ordinance Section 29-1, strictly governing its use and appearance.

The original half of the Single Brother's House was proposed to be built in 1768<sup>4</sup>, and was completed and occupied the following year.<sup>5</sup> This two-story, half-timbered building was used as a residence and place of work for the Single Brothers residing at Salem. The roof was made of tile, and the inside was plastered. The basement and first story provided rooms for the Brother's trades and professions, as well as for meeting rooms and kitchen.

As the population of Salem grew and the Single Brother's quarters became cramped, it soon became necessary to construct an addition to the original house. The addition was of brick construction, without the original half-timbering, and was completed in 1786.<sup>6</sup>

The building was used as the Single Brother's House for a number of years, and was thought to be an ideal setting for the single men to start their trade while strengthening their moral character. However, in 1823, a joint meeting of the Aeltesten Conferenz and the Aufseher<sup>7</sup> Collegium voted to dissolve the existing house organization, because they felt it had ceased to serve its original function.<sup>8</sup>

In 1825, the old part of the Brother's house was weather-boarded, and renovations were made<sup>9</sup> to transform the building into a boys' boarding school.<sup>10</sup> The school failed due to a lack of town interest, among other reasons, and the building in the future years was to be used as a "Families Dwelling"<sup>11</sup> and a Widow's House.

The Single Brother's House is significant because it is an important element in the streetscape of Old Salem. Architecturally, it is significant because the 1768 structure is an example of the early half-timbered frame house, while the 1786 addition shows the transition to the complete brick construction. It is also an example of the Moravian's social traditions of separating the community into groups for which communal living was provided. The building also displays the early practice of having the working place under the same roof as the living quarters.

The Single Brother's House was carefully restored under the direction of Old Salem, Inc. in 1964, and is now used as an exhibit building and office space for Old Salem.

10. The Single Brother's House was carefully restored under the direction of Old Salem, Inc. in 1964.
11. The Single Brother's House is currently a contributing structure in the Old Salem Historic District, a Registered National Historic Landmark. It is also listed in From Frontier to Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County. The Single Brothers House is also individually designated as a National Landmark.

## NOTES

The original manuscripts being principally in German, the following translations for historical data were used:

Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vols. I-VI (Raleigh North Carolina Historical Commission 1922-1943) by Dr. Adelaide L. Fries; Vol. VII by Dr. Fries, Vol. VIII by Douglas L. Rights, Vol. IX by Dr. Minnie J. Smith and Vols. X and XI by the Rt. Rev. Kenneth G. Hamilton (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1947-1969).

Erika Huber -- Unpublished translations made for Old Salem, Inc. and file at the Archives of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Edmund Schwarze -- Unpublished translations made for Old Salem, Inc. and on file at the Archives of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, Winston-Salem, N. C.

1. Old Salem Guidebook, p. 27.
2. Ibid., p. 28.
3. Edmund Schwarze, Diacony Conference, Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, NC, 30 August 1768.
4. Ibid., 13 June 1768.
5. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, p. 394.
6. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, p. 2129.
7. Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, p. 2641.
8. Ibid., p. 3641.
9. Ibid., p. 3642.
10. Ibid., p. 3744, 3745
11. Ibid., p. 3933