

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Salem Tavern Dining Room

Local Historic Landmark #15
736 S. Main St., Winston-Salem
(Original Salem Lot 68)
Construction Date: 1816
Restoration Date: 1968
Landmark Designation Date:
10/04/76

Salem Tavern was a Moravian Church-owned business and was seen as one of the ten priority buildings first constructed in Salem. Tavern keepers were selected for the job, and it was considered a place of interaction between Moravians and non-Moravians, commonly referred to as “strangers.” The tavern was a self-sufficient complex with a variety of buildings on the site. When completed in 1816, the tavern’s purpose was to ease lodging demands in the town.

In 1832, a new dining hall building was constructed between this structure and the 1784 Salem Tavern (Local Historic Landmark #48), which stands to the south. These three buildings were connected by a continuous



Fourth of July celebration in Old Salem, 1971
(front porch of Salem Tavern Dining Room)
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection



two-story front porch along S. Main Street; by the late 19th century, the buildings were collectively known as the Salem Hotel. However, by the turn of the 20th century, the building had become a tenement.

Salem Tavern Dining Room is a 2½-story, frame building on a partially exposed stuccoed cellar, with a wood-shingle roof and brick chimneys with corbelled caps. It features a center paneled door with a five-light transom. The full-façade front porch features a wood-shingle roof supported by slender, smooth columns with a square baluster railing.

In 1968, Old Salem, Inc. restored the property to its 1816 appearance. The interior was adapted for use as a restaurant space.

Today Salem Tavern Dining Room remains in use as a restaurant enterprise, with the kitchen in the building’s cellar.



This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission’s web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>