

Restoration Proves Hard Undertaking

By Leigh Wood

After World War II, the area was "in danger of being blighted and partially destroyed." There was much traffic going through the middle of Salem; and consequently, undesirable businesses were moving in. Old buildings were not being kept up, and the area was becoming a slum. Therefore, in an attempt to stop this deterioration of these old historical buildings with their distinctive architectural style on March 29, 1949, the Wachovia Historical Society appealed to the Board of Aldermen for the preservation (not restoration) of Old Salem. The Society wanted to get zoning laws passed which would restrict remodeling of existing buildings and the building of new buildings which were not in keeping with the surrounding buildings. The Society also made a plea for the conservation of the remaining old buildings and the preservation of them as best as possible.

Then in December of that year, Mayor Marshall C. Kurfes appointed a temporary "Restoration Investigating Committee," headed by James A. Gray, Jr., to study ways to restore Old Salem; and in the mean time, he asked the citizens of the community not to make any building changes in the Old Salem area until final plans had been made by the committee.

March 16, 1950, was set as the date for a public meeting of Winston-Salem citizens to hear the report of the temporary committee. Three hundred and fifty citizens attended this meeting and gave unanimous approval of the committee's proposal to form a new permanent, non-profit organization called Old Salem, Inc. which would undertake the restoration of Old Salem. A board of trustees consisting of twenty-five members was elected; and it then adopted the following recommendations proposed by the Mayor's temporary committee:

- 1) Old Salem, Inc. would take immediate action toward restoration and preservation of Old Salem.
- 2) The estimated cost of the project would be two and one half million dollars.
- 3) It would be a long-range project to be "financed over several generations."
- 4) The main part of the project would be finished by 1966, so that there might be a 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of Salem.
- 5) The restoration would restore the town to its appearance in the early 1800's.

The speaker at this public meeting was Andrew H. Hepburn, an architect from Boston, who had

helped with the Williamsburg Restoration. Hepburn, who had made a preliminary survey of Old Salem, told the citizens of Winston-Salem at the meeting that they were lucky in that there would be more to preserve and less to reconstruct than in most old communities, (such as Williamsburg). Of the twelve main original buildings, ten were still standing; and of the sixty-eight original homes, over half were still left. However, many buildings in the area had been remodeled when architectural styles had changed, and other buildings, not of the Old Salem style, had been built since 1830, filling in the Moravian vacant lots which had once been used for gardens and pastures. These non-conforming structures would have to be demolished or removed, and alterations would have to be made on the remodeled buildings.

Actual work began on the restoration project in May of 1950, when two restoration planners from the State College of Design, together with Frank Horton, the secretary of Old Salem, Inc., began physical research of Old Salem, in order to locate earlier foundations, walls, fences, artifacts, and other data which would make the restoration more authentic. The restorations were to be based on these archeological studies along with architectural studies and information from Old Moravian drawings, engravings, pictures, and the carefully kept, detailed early Moravian records, diaries, notes, and inventories.

There were other concerns besides these, however, such as financial ones. Most of the organization's revenue was to come from voluntary donations from Winston-Salem citizens and annual grants from the State of North Carolina. The Moravian Church and the Wachovia Historical Society also gave as much as possible, but most of their contributions were in the form of donations of original Moravian records, musical instruments, tools, and other original artifacts and furnishings which helped to make the restoration project more authentic.

Old Salem, Inc., was lucky in being able to buy some of the historic sites and buildings, and others such as the Tavern and the Wachovia Museum were leased on a long-term basis for only one dollar a year. The organization was also lucky in being granted tax-exemption privileges (since it is a non-profit organization).

In December of 1954 Old Salem, Inc., asked the Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to have small businesses in some of the restored buildings. Frank Horton explained that it had been the inten-

tion of Old Salem, Inc., to restore buildings to their original uses as well as their original appearances. Since almost everyone in the early Salem community ran some kind of shop or trade in their home, if small shops were allowed to operate in Old Salem, it would make the restoration resemble more nearly the old village; and it would, of course, be a tourist attraction with the revenues from profits going toward the Old Salem fund. The request was granted; and consequently, the Salem Community Store was restored and reopened to sell many items in keeping with the restoration.

Of course, there were also other milestones which had to be surpassed. One was the building of a reception center and parking lot for the visitors who were attracted to Old Salem. The Old Salem organization also had to get special permission from the city to put in brick sidewalks, and then the old cement ones had to be taken out and replaced with old colonial brick sidewalks. Another problem was the numerous power and electrical lines which had to be removed from the square and parts of Main Street.

Today many buildings have been restored and others remodeled to resemble their appearance in 1830. A few have been restored by individuals, while the rest have been restored by Old Salem, Inc. Forty-one non-conforming buildings have been destroyed or removed. The result has been to return the air of spaciousness which Salem once had and to reestablish the former architectural uniformity of Salem. Unlike some restoration projects, the restoration of Old Salem has become a "living museum", "filled with people and one that continues to live according to ancient Moravian tradition." The restoration project is not only of historical significance, however, but it is also valuable as an urban renewal program, (in spite of the lack of federal funds).

The purposes of Old Salem, Inc., which were originally to stop further deterioration and building of non-conforming buildings and to restore only ten or twelve main buildings, today have become much more ambitious. The estimated cost and completion date for the restoration project set by Old Salem, Inc., when it was chartered in 1950, have both been extended many times over. It is doubtful that the project will even be completed in this life-time. For example, the Germain Haus, which once stood where Main Hall presently stands, will undoubtedly not be restored in the near future. But restoration continues and more and more Salem resembles the small Moravian village it was in 1830.

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List Of Nominees For Student Government Offices Announced

The following is the slate of candidates for Student Government offices to be voted on March 14 and 16.

PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Christina Spence
2. Cathy Gazes
3. Sarah Dorrier

SECRETARY OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Mary Ann Campbell
2. Barbara Brothers
3. Elsie Fuller
4. Kathy Bacon
5. Dee Dee Anderson

CHAIRMAN OF HONOR COUNCIL

1. Christina Spence
2. Sarah Dorrier
3. Melinda Vick
4. Lisa Herron
5. Catherine Cooper

SECRETARY OF HONOR COUNCIL

1. Barbara Brothers
2. Clark Kitchen
3. Elsie Fuller
4. Margaret Brinkley
5. Nancy Adams

TREASURER OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Allison Towne
2. Anna Moore Butzner
3. Jeannie Dorsey
4. Holly Materne

VICE-PRES. OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

1. Betsy Hester
2. Margaret Binkley
3. Marcy Priester
5. Laura Turnage
4. Chris Moran

CHAIRMAN OF INTERDORM

1. Le Newell
2. Mary Ann Campbell
3. Katherine Kirkpatrick
4. Averell Pharr
5. Peggy Bullard

SECRETARY OF INTERDORM

1. Sarah Tucker
2. Jeanie Hendrick
3. Paula Jeffords
4. Pam Poe
5. Cyndy Patterson

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES ON HONOR COUNCIL

- (Freshman)
1. Sarah Tucker
 2. Paula Jeffords
 3. Betty Blaine Perry
 4. Cyndy Patterson
 5. Nancy Cooper
 6. Ashby Powell

(Sophomore)

1. Averell Pharr
2. Betsy Hester
3. Cindy Greever
4. Janet Ross

(Junior)

1. Pierce McIntyre
2. Scottie Newell
3. Sally Pinto

PRESIDENT OF WYCA

1. Chris Young
2. Catherine Cooper
3. Laura Ferguson
4. Becky Eagles

PRESIDENT OF IRS

1. Ann Wood
2. Allison Towne
3. Jeannie Dorsey
4. Janet Leonard

CHIEF MARSHAL

1. Marcy Priester
2. Winn Currie
3. Le Newell
4. Kathy Bacon
5. Janie Redfearn
6. Peggy Spilman

PRESIDENT OF PIERRETTES

1. Peggy Bullard
2. Chris Moran
3. Christi White
4. Julie Kidd

CHAIRMAN OF APRIL ARTS

1. Winn Currie
2. Ann Manley
3. Meredith Hardy
4. Chris Minter

FITS CHAIRMAN

1. Jeanie Hendrick
2. Pam Poe
3. Madeline Rankin
4. Betty Blaine Perry

IRC

1. Beth Ogden
2. Anna Moore Butzner
3. Christi White
4. Brenda Griffin
5. Marianne DeHart

WRA

1. Lee Booth
2. Peggy Spilman
3. Emily Shearer