



Miksch Tobacco Shop

A History Lesson:

Old Salem

SALEM was founded in 1766 by the Moravians--devout Germanic people who traced their faith to the 15th century Bohemian martyr, John Hus. After Hus was burned at the stake, some of his followers formed the Unitas Fratrum (Unity of Brethren) in 1457--making it one of the earliest Protestant groups. During the next 300 years, there were periods in which the Unity flourished across Bohemia, Moravia and Poland. Religious persecution eventually forced the Brethren into hiding, however. Yet the "hidden seed" of the faith was secretly kept alive. In the early 1700s a few escaped from Moravia (hence the popular name "Moravian") and found refuge on the estate of a Saxon nobleman, Nicholas Lewis, Count of Zinzendorf. There the Unity was reborn, and there in their new town, Herrnhut, many of the Moravian traditions known today had their beginning.

Within a few years, the Moravians began to send missionaries to the New World. The first settlement was in Georgia, but this was soon abandoned for colonies in Pennsylvania, where Bethlehem became the central town. In the early 1750s, Lord Granville of England sold to the Brethren a 98,985-acre tract in the piedmont of North Carolina. They named it "Wachovia." The first settlers arrived from Pennsylvania on November 17, 1753, and took refuge in an abandoned log cabin. The next day they began

to build a town, which they named "Bethabara," meaning "House of Passage," for they knew that a permanent town site would be chosen later. They were soon joined by other Moravians from Pennsylvania and Europe. By 1756 Bethabara had become known as a thriving, hospitable community. Even the Indians looked upon it as a place "where there are good people and much bread."

On January 6, 1766, the first tree was felled for the central town--to be called "Salem," meaning "Peace." During the next six years, the Moravians remained at Bethabara while they built the new town. In 1772 the essential buildings were complete, and most of the industries and residents of Bethabara moved to Salem.

Unlike many early American towns, Salem was a planned community. Also, it was operated as a congregation town in which the economic as well as the spiritual affairs of all residents were directed by the church. The congregation was divided into "choirs" according to age, sex and marital status. Skilled work, frequent worship services and much music, both sacred and secular, made up the daily lives of these early Moravians, and Salem soon became known as an industrial and educational center.

As the area surrounding Salem became more populated, the closely-knit life of frontier days

became less necessary. In the mid-19th century, Salem ceased to function as a congregation town. A new town--the county seat, Winston--grew up just north of Salem, and most of the activity shifted there. The Moravians who had built Salem, however, were master craftsmen whose work was not only skillful but also made to last. Consequently, many of the buildings in the original town were still standing at the close of World War II. Time and

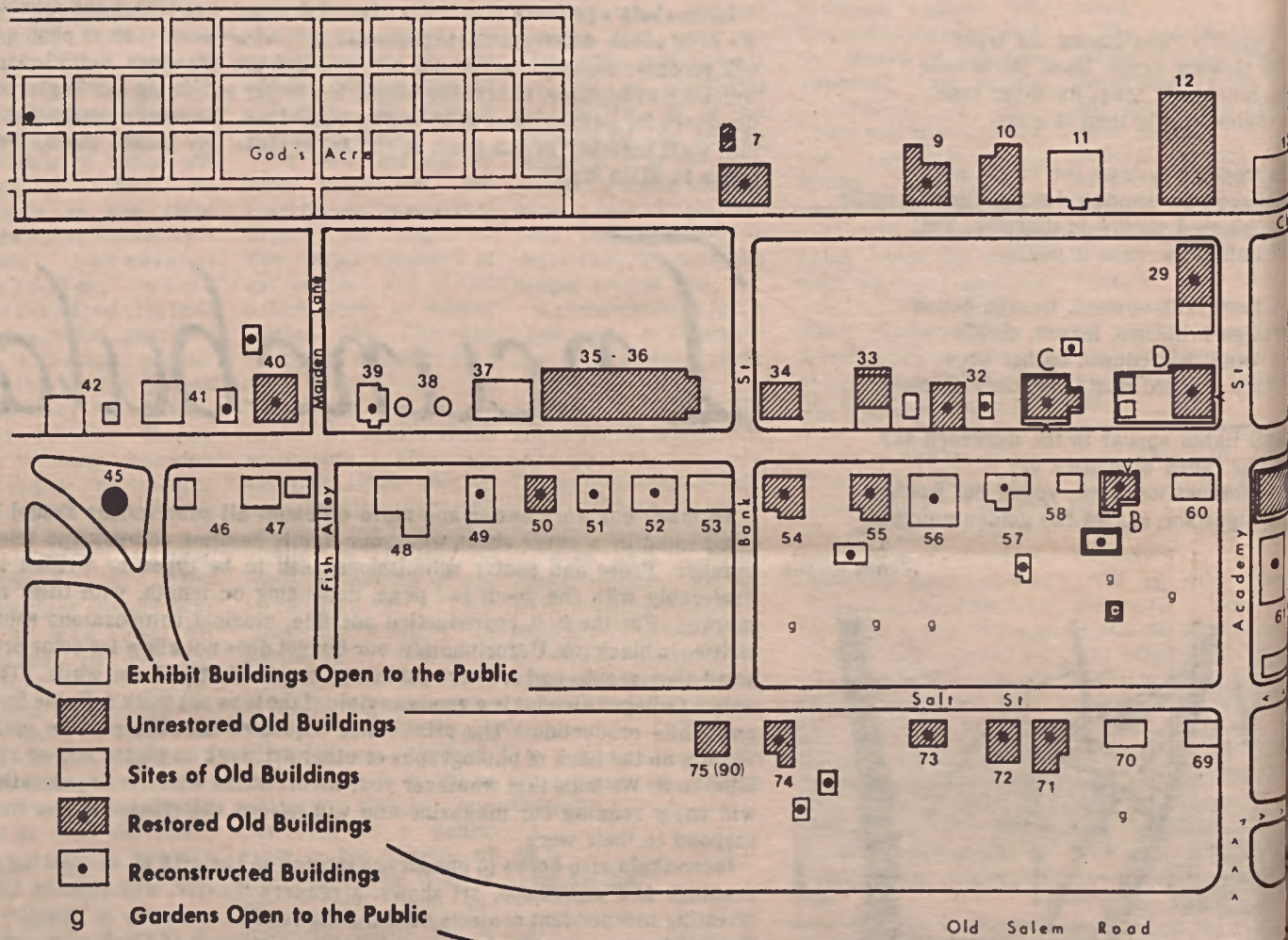
neglect, though, had left their mark on the entire area. In 1947 a grocery store announced plans to put a supermarket in the heart of historic Salem. This aroused the citizens of Winston-Salem into action. By 1950 a non-profit corporation, Old Salem, Incorporated, had been organized to preserve and restore this historic area. The result has been the re-creation of the atmosphere as well as the appearance of the early Moravian congregation town.



Single Brothers House

- A. SINGLE BROTHERS HOUSE, 1769 with 1786 addition
B. MIKSCH TOBACCO SHOP, 1771 with additions to 1785

- C. WINKLER BAKERY, 1800 with additions to
D. BOYS SCHOOL (Wachovia Museum), 1794



courtesy of Old Salem, Inc.

Numbers used on this map represent a Salem lot identification system dating back to 1819.

The date in brackets is the date that construction of each building was completed. The date in front of each restored or reconstructed structure is the date to which the building has been restored or reconstructed, including all alterations and additions made up to that time.

7. Vierling House [1802] and Wash House [1831]
9. 1823 Steiner House [1823]
10. Bishop's House [1841]
11. Site of House for Retired Ministers [1816]
12. Home Moravian Church [1800]*
13. Site of Gemeinhaus [1771] (Main Hall, Salem College)
14. 1837 Girls Boarding School [1805] and Wash House [c.1817] (Alumnae House, Salem College)
15. 1819 Single Sisters House [1786 with 1819 addition]
15a. Site of Tycho Nissen House [1782]
20. 1849 Philip Reich House [1824] and 1832 Shop [1832] (Tinsmith and Pewterer)
21. 1845 Jacob Siewers House [1845], Barn and Site of Shop [1821] (Cabinetmaker)

22. 1824 Traugott Leinbach House [1824] and Wash House
23. Augustus Zevely House [1844]
23a. Site of Edmund Blum Shop [1781 building moved to site in 1842] (Coppersmith)
24. Ebert-Reich House [1793] and Site of Reich Shop [1815] (Tinsmith)
25. 1844 Joshua Boner House [1844]
26. Site of Transou House [1788]
27. 1821 Bagge House [1787]
28. Site of Shober House [1795]
29. c.1850 Inspector's House [1810 with 1838 and c.1850 additions] (Salem College Administration) and Site of Boys School House-keeper's House [1811]
32. 1829 Butner House [1829] and 1825 Shop [1825] (Hatter)
33. Herbst House [1821] and Site of Shop [1829] (Saddler)
34. Vorsteher's House [1797] (Moravian Church Archives, Southern Province)
35. Belo House [1849-1860] (Presently apartments for
36. 1841
37. 1843
38. 1841
39. 1843
40. 1843
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49. 1805
50. 1768
51. 1767
52. 1766
53.
54. 1847