



Name of Property:	Old Salem Historic District (updated documentation and boundary change)
City, State:	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Period of Significance:	1766-1913, 1948-2010
NHL Criteria:	1, 4, 5, and 6
NHL Exceptions:	1, 5, 6, and 8
NHL Theme:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Peopling Places <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Migration from outside and within 4. Community and neighborhood 5. Ethnic homelands II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Religious institutions III. Expressing Cultural Values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning V. Developing the American Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Workers and work culture 6. Exchange and trade VII. Transforming the Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manipulating the environment and its resources
Previous Recognition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1966 National Historic Landmark 1966 National Historic Landmark (Salem Tavern) 1970 National Historic Landmark (Single Brothers' House) 1977 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (Arista Cotton Mill Complex) 1978 NRHP (South Trade Street Houses) 1979 NRHP (Single Brothers' Industrial Complex Site) 1983 NRHP (Salem Town Hall) (Hylehurst) 1985 NRHP (William Allen Blair House) 1991 NRHP (Brickenstein-Leinbach House, Winston-Salem Southbound Railway Freight Warehouse & Office, Saint Philip's Moravian Church) 1999 NRHP (Indera Mills)



2002 NRHP (some resources within Holly Avenue HD)

2005 NRHP (some resources within West Salem HD)

National Historic Context:

- XVI. Architecture
 - A. Colonial
- XXX. American Ways of Life
 - C. Industrial Towns
 - E. Ethnic Communities
- XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements
 - A. Communitarianism and Utopianism
- XXXIII. Historic Preservation
 - B. Regional Efforts: The South

NHL Significance:

- Old Salem is an exceptional reflection of the culture of the Moravian/German immigrants who established the unique, theocratically-governed, utopian town of Salem.
- The distinguishing body of architecture represented here was formed during the theocratically-governed Congregation Town of Salem (1766-1856), and was impacted by cultural and economic forces in the Southern landscape over a ninety-year period of acculturation.
- Moravian identity in Salem was maintained even with the conclusion of the theocratic government in 1856. The community transitioned from 1857 to 1913 (the period of Reconstruction, the New South movement, and late nineteenth century industrialization) from a craft-based economy into an industrial economy. This Moravian-controlled change culminated in the merger of the communities of Salem and Winston into Winston-Salem (1913).



- Archaeology has been central to the restoration of Old Salem and has been addressed by a succession of many of the most prominent historical archaeologists in the discipline. The potential for further archaeological investigation is significant and can strongly address the ethnic transformations that occurred from Salem's origins in 1766 through the nineteenth century. This includes the study of the ownership of enslaved people within this utopian community, which will contribute to the understanding of racial dynamics in the country.
- The mid-twentieth century efforts to restore and interpret the theocratic town of Salem, as it existed between 1766 and 1856, drew from prevailing theories of historic preservation, urban planning, historical interpretation, and historical archaeology to forge an innovative model for the restoration of a historic urban landscape. Through its dedication to meticulous research, restoration, and reconstruction standards following a master plan, Old Salem, Inc. has successfully restored a singular example of an eighteenth-century Moravian congregation town and one of the nation's largest collections of Germanic-Moravian architecture.

Integrity:

- The Old Salem Historic District includes a planned, articulated, and restored landscape that records the dynamic story of the Moravians in Piedmont North Carolina during the life of the town of Salem, and the local community efforts to preserve and restore that experience through the creation of Old Salem, Inc. At the forefront of the historic preservation movement in America, Old Salem is a multi-use district, as it has been throughout its life, and the original eighteenth-century resources and reconstructions continue to support a living community of church, college, museum, businesses, residents, and visitors.
- The town of Salem included churches, graveyards, schools, institutional buildings, industries and businesses, agricultural land, houses, gardens, outbuildings, open spaces, creeks, roadways and paths, and fence lines. With the exception of most outbuildings, the buildings and structures remain, either extant (or reconstructed) and in use as intended, or as museum interpretations adaptively reused, or protected as archaeological components.
- Landscape restoration over several decades has re-established open space related to the community's early development. Since the 1970s, as part of the restoration efforts, site layout and plantings in the restored area correspond to the same period as the respective restored buildings.
- Almost seventy years of local regulatory protection, including local historic district zoning and museum deed covenant and operations, has helped reduce incompatible changes and protect archaeological resources from unnecessary disturbance, especially in the core area.

Owner of Property: Local government; various private owners; Old Salem Inc.; Salem Congregation; Home Moravian Church; Salem Academy and College.

Acreeage of Property: 193 acres (including two discontiguous resources).



Origins of Nomination: Old Salem, Inc. expressed a desire to update and expand the NHL boundaries and the period of significance based on fifty years of additional research and restorations since the original nomination. Studies and surveys were initiated in 1996 through Certified Local Government grants.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- A larger area and the broader influences of the Moravians will be recognized beyond the restored museum district.
- The importance of local preservation efforts and methods, such as reconstructions, will be better understood.
- Updated documentation would recognize of the richness and significance of the archaeological resources.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Leavitt moved, Dr. Mills seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 05/06/16):

The Honorable Allen Joines, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Kevin Cherry, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina

Advisory Board Recommendation: