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Images: Unless otherwise noted, photographs of existing conditions were taken by UGA students and coordinators, while pictures of camp meeting were provided by Salem Camp Ground.
Established in 1828, Salem Camp Ground may be the oldest continuously operating religious camp meeting ground in the United States. The 63-acre site in Newton County, Georgia, consists of a central open-air tabernacle surrounded by a tight semi-circle of early-to-mid-19th century family cabins known as “tents.” There is also a c. 1940 wood-frame hotel with 28 rooms, lobby and dining room.

The fairly flat landscape is simple with an informal arrangement of hardwoods and pines at various stages of growth amongst the tabernacle and tents, and a successional forest behind the main arrangement of buildings. Contemporary installations include a mid-20th century parsonage, a c. 2005 memorial garden, RV sites and a bathhouse, a caretakers’ residence, recreation pavilion, playground, and maintenance shed, all placed just outside of the original semicircle.

Salem Road (GA Highway 162) bisects the original property from a spring and well-house that are the only extant remains of the other half of the original circle of tents. The camp ground was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, and the tabernacle is documented in the Historic American Building Survey in the Library of Congress.

Salem Camp Ground’s Board of Directors approached the College of Environment and Design (CED) seeking solutions to sustain spiritual and financial support of the property by expanding the numbers of families that can camp during the annual camp meeting, and providing rental opportunities for groups seeking options for reunions and retreats. Their challenge is adding additional family cabins in a manner that reflects rather than detracts from the historic nature of the site, and adheres to building code requirements.

As a significant cultural site interested in sustainable growth, Salem Camp Ground benefited from a two-phase approach, including research and documentation of the cultural landscape’s developmental history, and appropriate design concepts for its physical expansion.
The "Second Great Awakening," a series of Christian revivals, occurred in the Southeastern United States from about 1790 to 1830. This event was also known as the "Great Revival" due to the pronounced changes it made to the religious and cultural climate, embedding Protestant values deep into American culture and creating what is known as the "Bible Belt" of the United States.

During a weeklong summer "lay-by" time on the farm, early Southeastern settlers packed up their families, slaves, farm animals, and belongings into a covered wagon and journeyed to a designated location to commune and worship. These "camp meetings" succeeded due to their popular format of enthusiastic preaching and audience participation—at their peak, they could attract 10,000 or more people! Attendees gathered for prayer under tabernacles or arbors—large, sturdy, wood-framed pavilions open on all four sides.

Originally people camped in their wagons or set up canvas tents and shanties. Eventually, more permanent structures were necessary for the camp meetings to grow. Some families began to build small wooden cottages known as "tents" and hand them down through the generations, which has remained a fixed part of the tradition.

Camp meetings fostered the development of Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, which would greatly impact the Southeast. Salem Camp Ground was deeply rooted in Methodism when it began. Dating back to the early 1820s, it is one of the oldest continually operating camp grounds in Georgia.

PHASE I: CULTURAL LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION

Associate Professor Cari Goetcheus and her Fall 2018 course, Cultural Landscape Documentation (HIPR 4330S/6330S), used Salem Camp Ground as a study site. The learning objectives for the course were to undertake cultural landscape historic research, document existing conditions, identify character-defining features to retain, and craft development guidelines and proposals for the future of the camp ground. The scope of work consisted of experiencing and observing the site, interacting with people who use and manage the place, collecting measurements, photographs, etc. of buildings and landscape features to create a good base map and gain insights into the essence of the property.
In 1844, a preacher at Salem named Bishop James Andrew Osgood acquired slaves through marriage, but within the Methodist church there was debate about whether clergy members could own slaves. Bishop Osgood argued that he could not legally free the slaves under Georgia law, but he did give one of them, Kitty, the option to go live free in Liberia or stay a slave in Georgia on her nineteenth birthday. Kitty chose to stay in Georgia.

Bishop Osgood built a cottage for Kitty and her husband on his property where they could live freely. While allowances had been made for other Methodist church leaders in Southern states with similar laws that hindered people from releasing their slaves, the denomination debated whether to grant this to Bishop Osgood. This larger debate led to a split in the denomination, creating the Methodist Episcopalian Church South.

Starting in the 1930s, the two Methodist denominations began to discuss reuniting. Salem camp members did not agree with the reunification, and dissolved ties with the Methodist church in 1937. That same year, the new board of trustees moved Kitty's Cottage to the grounds. Inside Kitty's cottage, they created a museum to the Confederacy and Southern Methodism. The cottage was later moved to Emory University's Oxford campus nearby (Roberts, Hammock).

For more on the story of Kitty's Cottage, see Emory's webpage (https://www.emory.edu/EMORY_MAGAZINE/spring97/enigma.html).

**KITY’S COTTAGE**

Original hotel, 1938 photo

Tabernacle at camp meeting, 1931

**HISTORY**

- **c. 1823** Founding of Salem Methodist Church
- **1835** First camp meeting held at Salem Methodist Church
- **1836** Land with Spring donated by Green B. Turner
- **1840** First tent built
- **1850** Half of camp burned
- **1854** Tabernacle built by Moses Mann & Slider Presnell
- **1900** Current roof with gable added to the tabernacle
- **1936** Camp meeting conducted by Salvation Army temporarily due to Depression
- **1937** Methodist Church reunites
- **1823** First camp meeting held
- **First tent built**
- **1835** Brush arbor constructed
- **1836** Square laid out for tents
- **1840** First tent built
- **1850** Half of camp burned
- **1900** Current roof with gable added to the tabernacle
- **1931** More tents built
- **1936** Bath houses built
- **1937** Methodist Church reunites
1937 Construction of Salvation Army Cottage and Preacher's Cottage

1937 Hotel and tabernacle wired for electricity

1939 First interdenominational Board of Trustees

1940 New hotel built to replace previously burned down hotel

1941 Camp ground begins to be used for other purposes besides camp meetings

1937 Ramsey Tent traded to Ogletree family

1938 T. E. Glenn donates money for and builds "Stranger's Tent"

1939 Shift from evangelical religious revival to family reunion

1940 New hotel built to replace previously burned down hotel

1941 Board of Directors proposes Hollingsworth tent to be preserved as antique

1946 Concrete walkways to tabernacle installed

1947 Due to lack of action by families, Board votes that all claims to building lots would be forfeited if construction did not begin by April 1, 1948

1939 Camp ground begins to be used for other purposes besides camp meetings

1946 Voted that all claims to building lots would be forfeited if building did not begin by April 1, 1948

1949 Hotel kitchen improvements

1941 Recreation area complete with stone wall

1941 Camp ground begins to be used for other purposes besides camp meetings

1946 Concrete walkways to tabernacle installed

1951 New tents built, new water system installed

1946 Shift from evangelical religious revival to family reunion

1953 New lighting system & rostrum at tabernacle

1956 Salvation Army tent sold to Tom Hicks for $800

1959 General improvements, including addition of porch and rocking chairs to hotel

1959 Hollingsworth Tent to be preserved as an antique

1960 Recreation area complete with stone wall

1959 New lighting system & rostrum at tabernacle

1960 Hotel porch & chairs, added 1960

1951 Camp meeting, c. 1937

1951 Camp ground plat map, 1938

1956 New tents built, new water system installed

1959 Camp meeting, c. 1937

1959 Camp ground plat map, 1938

1959 Photograph, c. 1950

1959 Hotel porch & chairs, added 1960

1959 Recreation area complete with stone wall
Formerly segregated bath house moved across from hotel to be repurposed

1937
Hotel and tabernacle wired for electricity

1937
Ramsey Tent traded to Ogletree family

1938
T. E. Glenn donates money for and builds "Stranger's Tent"

1939
First Interdenominational Board of Trustees

1939
Shift from evangelical religious revival to family reunion

1940
1980
Formerly segregated bath house moved across from hotel to be repurposed

1988
Hollingsworth tent transferred to the Ogletree family

1989
Fire Department builds BBQ pit and shed without permission; asked to return site to prior condition

1991
Tabernacle rehabilitated, ridge vent added to the roof

1994
Car accident: driver collided with tabernacle, damaged eight benches

2008
Proposal for Vaughn Memorial Garden

2008
Vaughn Memorial Garden installed

2011
Eight benches Vaughn Memorial Garden, installed 2011
Located between two large, rapidly developing urban centers outside of Atlanta—Conyers and Covington—Salem Camp Ground’s location in Newton County affects its ability to maintain traditions and grow participation. Salem Camp Ground is nearby to many churches in the area—34 churches lie within a five-mile radius alone. This is significant because it could give insight into the amount of competition that the camp ground may experience as it aims to grow its programming to include year-round use and increase participation at camp meeting. Prospective families may have the choice of several summer Vacation Bible School events in addition to Salem’s camp meeting. However, Salem’s location also positions it as a unique draw for a retreat center throughout the year.

New housing developments, formerly farmland, surround the property. There are no significant wetlands within the site, though there are two streams. One of the streams originates from the historic spring across Salem Road from the tabernacle. There are about 956 feet of stream (as defined by the USGS) within camp ground boundaries, which is located within the woods.

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Today's road conditions in Newton County are highly responsive to the sprawl of the Greater Atlanta area. In 2010, Spring Road was realigned and its intersection with Salem Road—formerly located by the tabernacle and the spring—was moved several hundred feet north, cutting off direct pedestrian access to the spring from the tabernacle (aerial photo, above left). Salem Road has become a busy vehicular thoroughfare due to surrounding residential developments, so it is very dangerous to cross outside of a crosswalk. To safely access the spring from the camp ground, people now have to walk several hundred feet to the northern edge of the camp ground to cross the street at a crosswalk, then travel the same distance back on the other side of the road. Traveling this extra distance may prohibit access for elders and others with limited mobility, and encourage the more able-bodied to risk dashing across the road in a more direct route to the spring. A planned bypass will divert traffic away from the camp ground, spring, and Salem Church (effectively dead-ending Salem Road), but it is unlikely to happen until 2030 (plan, above right).

Salem Camp Ground is currently zoned as R-2. Development standards for these residential zoning districts include a minimum house size of 1,800 square feet, which is larger than the current square footage of Salem’s tents. The tents are neither in continual use nor heated, so it would seem that the same code requirements would not apply to the construction of new tents. However, recent attempts to remodel or build tents have resulted in county staff requiring new construction to meet residential building code. As Salem expands, it will be necessary to apply for variances so that new tents are not required to meet the same specifications as houses. In addition to the zoning designation, the Camp Ground is also located within the Salem Road Zoning Overlay, which encourages the “creation of clusters of close knit growth that keep the small town charm,” including further specifications to which new development must adhere. The overlay highlights Salem Camp Ground as a “historic district”, with the intention to highlight its character and provide a buffer from surrounding commercial uses. However, it does not appear to be a regulated historic district as part of a historic preservation ordinance overlay, which would afford the benefit of design review to protect historic character.
There are five distinct environments within the camp ground that can be thought of as character areas. Each one has its own function in Salem’s landscape, with a distinguishable setting and characteristics.

- **Tabernacle**
- **Lodging**
- **The Spring**
- **Maintenance Area**
- **Recreation**

Salem Camp Ground has a total of 42 structures, including 27 tents, six sheds, two houses, the hotel, tabernacle, pavilion, gazebo, spring house, RV bath house, and firehouse. The buildings on Salem’s grounds range from 1840s to 2010s construction. Given this wide range, the appearance of the campus is quite eclectic, reflecting changes in vernacular architecture through time.
A sense of sacredness and awe exists at Salem, especially at the tabernacle. The heart of worship and communal life during camp meetings, all tents are oriented in its direction. The tabernacle is visible to anyone driving by the grounds along Salem Road. The entire camp ground is organized around this large, central wooden structure.

With an asphalt shingle roof and wood shavings as ground cover, the 40-foot tall tabernacle is open on all four sides and contains original benches and beams, along with a choir loft. The original tabernacle was built in 1854 by Moses Mann and Slider Prennal, with white wooden clapboard siding. Hand-hewn timbers, approximately 40 feet long, were shaped with an adze and fastened together with wooden pegs, giving the structure its distinct character.

In recent years the clapboard siding was covered with vinyl siding to help reduce maintenance costs. The current roof structure was added around 1900. In the 1990s, a ridge vent was added to the roof, to aid in ventilation during the hot summer months. On the interior, the tabernacle is arranged symmetrically around a central aisle. There are side aisles and a platform at the front to accommodate pulpits.

By design, all primary pathways at Salem lead to the tabernacle, as it is the focus of camp meeting life. In addition to the daily religious services that have always been held here during camp meetings, informal events such as children’s talent shows take place in the tabernacle too. In fact, the surrounding land slopes downward towards the building, creating a low point on the property. During rainfall, flooding in this area can become a concern, yet it has also become tradition for children to play in the puddles that form.

The space around the tabernacle consists of open lawn, as well as areas of mature oaks and maples spaced 10 to 20 feet apart, with other trees such as crepe myrtle and magnolia present as well. Maintaining this cherished tree canopy near the tents and tabernacle will ensure pleasant, shady open spaces for future generations.

The plantings in this area are casual and seemingly unplanned. A row of evergreens shields against the road, while small-scale ornamental and functional features like benches, markers, and power poles are also present. Secondary routes allow pedestrian circulation around the tent and tabernacle area, and to the parsonage. Tertiary routes weave through the woods. Most routes are not direct lines, rather they meander, diminishing a sense of urgency or formality.
Lodging

Lodging (in various forms) is one of the defining elements at Salem. There are a variety of lodging types, including the tents, hotel, parsonage, and RV sites.

Tents

After the tabernacle, the tight semi-circle of 27 tents is Salem’s most definitive architectural form. Though tents come and go throughout the grounds’ history, they maintain a common vernacular appearance, spaced 10 to 15 feet apart and oriented inward toward the tabernacle. Most tents are one-story, though there are a few with two stories. As Salem expands, the Board of Directors would be wise to restrict the number of two-story tents on site, to avoid altering the historic character of the landscape. Also, future tents should use matte roofing material and select paint colors judiciously so they will not clash with the existing tents. In general, the tents share the following characteristics:

- Rectangular with entrances on short ends
- Front gable
- Predominantly one-story (only 15% of existing tents are two-story)
- Height around 15’ - 17’
- Front and rear porches (rear porch may be a stoop)
- Wood is the most common siding material
- Roofing materials: asphalt shingle, pressed sheet (matte), corrugated sheet (matte)
- Colors: white, off-white, green, reds, grey, yellows
- Colors also used for trim or decorative accents such as shutters
- Windows are either double hung sash, fixed, or rectangular openings with wooden doors
- Wood shaving ground cover is traditional, few have paved floors
Lodging

The earliest tent (c. 1840), Cunningham-Ramsey, began the trend of rectangular, front gable structures with large front porches and entrances on the short ends. A notable feature is the use of wood shavings as ground cover in both interior and exterior spaces.

Jenkins-Milton serves as an early example of a two-story tent within Salem Camp Ground. It maintains the same general configuration as the one-story tents, but with a second story. There are only three other two-story tents present on site.

Ogletree is an example of a tent that has received several material changes over the years, while maintaining its overall design. Rather than wooden clapboard, it is clad in a more contemporary composite vertical board siding. The porch ground cover has been updated to paving. Sash windows are present but in a similar layout as on the Cunningham-Ramsey tent.

Piper-Head serves as an example of a contemporary tent, built in 2010. The tent maintains the traditional configuration while using new materials like vinyl siding, mimicking the wooden clapboard used historically.

The following tents were selected as examples to represent each general category of tents on site. An "Architecture Analysis" section is included in the Appendix, which catalogues all 27 tents and other significant structures on site.
Lodging

Hotel
The hotel can characterize Salem’s resiliency and capacity for growth; the current hotel is a replacement for the original that burned down. In 1940, the current hotel, known as “Retreat,” was built after the original hotel burned. Larger than the original, this hotel can accommodate 65 people. In the 1960s, a wrap-around porch with rocking chairs was added.

RV Camping Area
Concrete pads and utility hookups for four RVs are located to the east of the parsonage and memorial garden. Constructed in the 1980s, this area provides campers with another option for lodging on the grounds. It includes a concrete block bath house serving both RVs and tents. The bath house (below) has a utilitarian appearance not in keeping with the vernacular architecture of the rest of the site.

Parsonage
Located on the northeast corner of the property, the parsonage is a newer brick Ranch-style house that is at odds visually with the rustic tents and hotel. Its separate gated entrance connects with the service road north of the grounds.
The spring and brick spring house located across Salem Road provided water to campers and their animals for many years until modern pumps were installed. The site of many baptisms and a popular nighttime courting spot, it has remained a beloved feature to generations of camp meeting attendees. The spring house and marker were improvements begun by Trustee H.Y. McCord in 1930. Since then, traffic along Salem Road has effectively cut off the spring from the grounds across the street.

Originally built to house the Salem Woman’s Club in 1931, the adjacent building (at left) was converted into a firehouse with an addition in 1981. It is currently not used except for meetings.
The back of the parsonage is dominated by the Vaughan family memorial garden, constructed in 2011. While most of the camp ground property developed naturally through use over time, the memorial is the only designed landscape area planned out professionally. In contrast to the loose vegetation grouping throughout the rest of the grounds, the grassy area surrounding the obelisk and the crepe myrtle grove was planted with a higher degree of planning and intention. Leading to this area is a memorial paver sidewalk that runs from the rear of the north tents to the parsonage. While the Salem community enjoys the garden, future development should minimized new designed spaces, so as not to detract from the historic, vernacular charm that distinguishes the camp ground.

Maintenance Area

The maintenance area includes a contemporary Ranch-style caretakers’ house and several utility sheds. The semi-wooded maintenance area adjacent to the house has become a dumping ground for miscellaneous debris and equipment. This underutilized area presents an opportunity to reorganize the cleared space or return it to its former vegetated state.

Recreation

Ramsey Pavilion

A more recent addition, Ramsey Pavilion has a similar form as the tabernacle (and other modern, open-sided recreational buildings). Rather than clapboard siding and wood shavings, it was built with contemporary materials such as fiber cement board and a concrete floor, but echoes the traditional forms of the historic camp ground buildings.

Softball Field

Open space for a softball field east of the caretaker’s house was cleared in 1988, though play space became part of the camp ground in the 1930s. These days, children rarely play on the field because it feels isolated from the rest of the camp ground. Currently the field presents a large patch of cleared land, ripe with opportunity.

Vaughn Memorial Garden

The back of the parsonage is dominated by the Vaughan family memorial garden, constructed in 2011. While most of the camp ground property developed naturally through use over time, the memorial is the only designed landscape area planned out professionally. In contrast to the loose vegetation grouping throughout the rest of the grounds, the grassy area surrounding the obelisk and the crepe myrtle grove was planted with a higher degree of planning and intention. Leading to this area is a memorial paver sidewalk that runs from the rear of the north tents to the parsonage. While the Salem community enjoys the garden, future development should minimized new designed spaces, so as not to detract from the historic, vernacular charm that distinguishes the camp ground.
The eastern portion of the campground behind the tents consists of hardwood forest original to the camp ground. At 37 acres, it occupies nearly half of the property and provides a significant buffer from the subdivisions that abut the property to the north and east.

In 1930, Trustee McCord advised that the woods be preserved for future generations. Through the years, the Salem Board of Directors has followed this advice. The woods have served to cut down on the noise and distraction of the surrounding development; require minimal upkeep compared to a lawn; provide shade and natural wildlife habitat; and contribute to the camp “feel” and isolation from the outside world.

Several informal paths wind through the woods for walking and hosting an annual 5K race, but the area remains largely unused and unmaintained.

In the 25 short years between 1993 and 2018, the woods have been successful in sheltering Salem from surrounding urban sprawl.

“[The woods should be] protected in every way from the encroachments of the general public. Forest areas in middle Georgia are growing scarce, and your forest should be preserved as a beautiful background for camp meeting and no one should be allowed to carry away any wood from the camp ground...”

-Trustee McCord, 1930
DESIGN GUIDELINES

Given the age and significance of Salem Camp Ground, maintaining its character and design features is essential to maintaining Salem’s traditions for future generations. Architectural Design guidelines were developed as part of CED’s Phase I research and analysis (see Appendix). The recommendations include these suggestions:

Maintaining the cherished tree canopy near the tents and tabernacle will ensure pleasant, shady open spaces for future generations. Keeping a strong buffer around the edges of the camp ground will help it continue to feel enclosed and separate from the fast pace of everyday life. While the Salem community cherishes the Vaughn memorial garden, continuing to add similar designed spaces would detract from the informal, vernacular nature that gives Salem its charm. Any new vegetation should copy the current types. Southern Magnolia, American Beautyberry, White Oak, Water Oak, Red Oak, Boxwood, Crepe Myrtle, and Red Maple are the most prevalent trees and shrubs currently on site.

Utilizing the architectural design guidelines would help direct development of new tents at Salem without compromising the vernacular integrity of the site. Generally, new construction should mimic the tent characteristics listed above. Two-story tents should be implemented judiciously, to avoid altering historic character. Using matte roofing material is important; a highly reflective roofing material may detract from the overall character. Paint color does not need to be strictly enforced. Freedom with diversity of colors can maintain the natural progression of development on the site; however, it is recommended that future paint reflects a similar color palette.
CED Professor Cari Goetcheus assigned her students to come up with five separate designs, representing various future development scenarios for Salem. Student teams produced an overall plan, design concept, and principles for their scenario, guided by the findings from their prior research.

For all scenarios except the first, students were asked to itemize their self-defined development principles as Development Guidelines. These scenarios were later presented to the annual Board of Directors Retreat in January 2019 for their feedback, keeping in mind the hypothetical nature of the designs.

Scenario 1A: Full Build-Out – Maximum Development

Using existing Newton County zoning and development regulations, the students were asked to add as many new tents as they could while remaining cognizant of the site’s history. To create their Development Guidelines, the team was asked to itemize existing county requirements in addition to any that they defined. However, this student team was uncomfortable with the assignment—they felt that developing all of the woods to max out the site’s potential would violate its history and culture! So, they created two scenarios: Scenario 1A shows the original Full Build-Out assignment (with maximum development), while Scenario 1B aims to expand the camp considerably while maintaining a more rustic, family-centered feel.

Using a majority of the available land, 1A aims to increase rentable area by...

1. Replicating the historic U-shaped arrangement of tents in three new horseshoes of tents; two-story tents will be frequently used to maximize the amount of living space available. One of these new “neighborhoods” includes short-term rentals with gravel parking pads.
2. Repurposing the fire station as venue space for weddings, reunions, etc.
3. Expanding the RV area to include tent camping and a central fire pit.
4. Relocating the entrance to create better flow and more parking.
5. Converting the current softball field as well as a portion of the surrounding tree cover into a parking lot.
Scenario 1B: Full Build-Out – Conservative Development

Scenario 1B is similar to 1A, but instead of maximizing the site’s potential for new tents, the goal is to expand the camp considerably while maintaining a more rustic, family feel.

Like 1A, this plan includes...
1. The firehouse repurposed as an event venue.
2. An expanded RV area.
3. A relocated entrance.
4. A new tent group that is arranged with a similar density to that of the historic core.

Unlike 1A...
1. Two-story tents are limited in order to maintain the character of the historic core.
2. Only one additional horseshoe of tents is created.
3. A larger portion of woods is preserved.

Adding two rows of tents that are roughly 2,000 sq. ft. each and 12’-17’ tall. New tents are similar to the existing tents in their spacing and architecture.

Adding thick foliage for a screen behind the new tents to block noise and views from Salem Road, while maintaining the view from the road to the tabernacle.

Relocating the RV area to the softball field area, using the former RV area for new tents. A new community area with picnic tables is formed in the center.

Removing or relocating the small playground and tents F and G, creating a path to the new tent area.

Transforming the current firehouse into an area for picnics and gatherings. Remodeling it as an open-air structure mimicking the tabernacle with features like wood clapboard siding, and a front gable roof. Connecting this area to the spring with a pathway.

Scenario 2: Maintain All of the Woods

Per Trustee McCord’s 1930s advice to “maintain the woods to the greatest extent,” this team was tasked with creating their own principles for developing the site without touching the existing woods.

The team strove to maintain the woods completely and find non-intrusive locations for additional tents. Their design included...

1. Adding two rows of tents that are roughly 2,000 sq. ft. each and 12’-17’ tall. New tents are similar to the existing tents in their spacing and architecture.
2. Adding thick foliage for a screen behind the new tents to block noise and views from Salem Road, while maintaining the view from the road to the tabernacle.
3. Relocating the RV area to the softball field area, using the former RV area for new tents. A new community area with picnic tables is formed in the center.
4. Removing or relocating the small playground and tents F and G, creating a path to the new tent area.
5. Transforming the current firehouse into an area for picnics and gatherings. Remodeling it as an open-air structure mimicking the tabernacle with features like wood clapboard siding, and a front gable roof. Connecting this area to the spring with a pathway.
Scenario 3: Maintain the Woods, Partial Use (No Tents)

This group was asked to take Trustee McCord’s advice into consideration, with a caveat: it is okay to partially use the woods, but not for tents.

1. Future tents are added in the current softball field. They are modeled after the Brown-Ingle tent: H-shaped, two-story tents with space for four, four-member families, at around 5600 sq. ft. each. A new bathhouse is added near the new tents, built with more traditional materials than the existing bathhouse.

2. An RV entrance is provided in the northernmost driveway. The current RV site is used for yurts, while RVs park to the north.

3. Installing a forced air conditioning system and upgrading kitchen equipment can make the hotel more appealing and comfortable for visitors.

4. Once the GDOT bypass is complete, on-street parking would be created.

5. Changeable interpretive panels are placed at intervals throughout the trails, to activate the woods as a character area.

6. An historically accurate reconstruction of an early camp meeting site with interpretive materials occupies this natural clearing.

7. The former firehouse across the street is now an additional dining/event space.

8. The current caretakers’ house is renovated for the occupants of the Vaughn house, and the caretakers are relocated to the Vaughn house. This provides a more isolated maintenance complex and greater accessibility/centrality for the Vaughns.

Drainage & Vegetation

French drains (marked as black squares, above) provide a low-profile way to address some of the on-site drainage issues due to topography that cause water to pool near the tabernacle, jeopardizing its structural integrity.

To the fullest extent possible, existing vegetation is maintained, but some trees (marked in red) are removed to allow on-street parking.

New plantings incorporate currently abundant species, including water oak, post oak, Southern red oak, crepe myrtle, hickory, and/or red maple.
Scenario 4: Maintain the Woods, Partial Use (Tents Only)

This scenario takes Trustee McCord’s advice into consideration, under the premises that it is okay to partially use the woods, only for new tents.

The team strove to maintain the woods completely and find non-intrusive locations for additional tents. Their design included...

1. A new row of tents at the edge of the forest east of the existing access road, clustered into a row to match the arrangement of older tents. Clearing takes place gradually as new tents are built, while the largest trees are kept and tents are built around them. New tents are based, in form, on the oldest tents: one gable, rectangular, with front porches. New tents are mostly one story with a front porch, to encourage friendly interaction. Some two-story tents are allowed, but not beside each other.

2. Building materials reflect those used on the oldest tents. There is a vehicular access road behind the new tents.

3. A new bathhouse to service the south side of the camp ground, connected to the new tents via paved pathway.

4. A major parking area occupying the current softball field area.

5. A barbeque pit and gathering space near the current Boy Scout area, connected to the existing trails.

6. The firehouse, reimagined as a community center for the camp meeting as well as community groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or Rotary.

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Scenario 5: Engage the Spring Site

In this scenario the focus was to bring back into the cohesive site design the spring and surrounding area. Students were allowed to use part of the woods for whatever they cared to.

1. The current firehouse is repurposed as the caretaker’s house, with a picnic area nearby.

2. A crosswalk connects the tabernacle pathway to the spring site and caretaker’s house.

3. The current caretaker’s house is used as an additional tent.

4. New tents are added behind the row of existing tents, constructed with similar design and dimensions as the existing tents. Two-story tents are permissible as long as they do not exceed the height of tent AH and have similar dimensions to historic tents. The construction of new tents is staggered on an as-needed basis. Rather than constructing all new tents at the same time, they should be added on every other lot, leaving an open lot between each tent to maximize the lifespan of existing vegetation. This helps retain the site’s authenticity.

5. After all the sites in this row are filled with new tents, subsequent tents could be constructed just south of the memorial garden.
In January of 2019, Professor Cari Goetcheus presented the Cultural Landscape Management students' design scenarios at the Salem Board of Directors’ annual retreat. The following is a summary of the feedback that board members provided on the design scenarios.

PART I: RESPONSES TO SCENARIOS

Percentages represent the proportion of board members who individually responded in this way to each of the design scenarios.

Scenario 1A:
- Too many tents (55% of respondents)
- Tents are too far/not separate from tabernacle (50%)
- Don’t destroy the woods (44%)
- Prefer parking at tents rather than in separate lot (16%)

Scenario 1B:
- Better than full build-out in Scenario 1A (16%) but...
- Not enough woods preserved (16%)
- Too many tents (22%)
- Want to park by tents (10%)

Scenario 2:
- Don’t demolish any tents (33%)
- Like tents along road (28%) vs. No room for tents along road (44%)
- Need parking behind new tent row (11%)
- Like this plan (22%)

Scenario 3:
- Generically good (15%)
- On street parking. Positive (18%) vs. Negative (15%
- “H”-shaped tents: Positive (39%) vs. Negative (16%)
- Yurts and RVs: Positive (33%) vs. Negative (16%)

Scenario 4:
- Overall good design (55%)
- Bath house: Positive (5%) vs. Negative (23%)
- Tent locations: Positive (50%) vs. Negative (0%)
- Liked Trails (15%)
- Like softball field for parking (11%)

Scenario 5:
- Firehouse as caretakers’ house: Positive (11%) vs. Negative (72%)
- Liked crosswalk to spring (11%)
- Liked adding new tent row behind existing: Positive (44%)
- Need parking behind new tent row (12%)
- Liked phased construction (28%)
- Disliked putting tents on memorial garden space (22%)
- Overall good design (55%)

PART II: FINAL WRAP-UP QUESTIONS

The board members were asked to respond to three final questions. Their responses are listed below each question.

Question 1 - What is your favorite idea you heard?
- Walking trails and connecting spring to camp ground
- Trails, and utilizing the ball park
- Historic preservation/bringing back history, building tents in front of tabernacle
- Adding cabins. More cabins = more families at camp meeting, who open Salem for use for years to come.
- Getting back to original double row of tents
- Scenario 4

Question 2 - What is a new idea that was not presented?
- Tear down caretakers’ home and relocate; put new tents in its place
- A museum incorporated on-site to tell visitors the history of this place
- Adding more cabins was the new idea that came 5-6 years ago as I prayerfully thought about how the camp meeting naturally grows
- Purchase of additional land (across Salem Road) for additional tents to get back to “square” (in conjunction with Scenarios 4 & 5)
- Adding a type of daytime gathering place; youth area needed; softball field hasn’t been used in 20 years so it can be whatever; new cemetery options (add another?)
- New cabins and more RV spaces
- Build kids/youth tabernacle in new communal space
- Nobody walks from tabernacle to spring; everyone walks to spring from everywhere else
- Historically, tents built with kitchen in back because families had cooks—new tents should have kitchen in front so cooks (mostly moms) can look out
- Recommendations for improving the grass/ground cover on the camp ground, especially around the tabernacle
- Add plenty of restrooms to newly renovated firehouse
- We need more parking space close to the tabernacle for visitors attending service; security is a concern—how will we address security in the new areas?
- How new road location will affect overall security in the new areas?
- How new road location will affect all
- Small playground for babies/toddlers that will be in view of all (mostly moms) can look out
- Historically, tents built with kitchen in back because families had cooks—new tents should have kitchen in front so cooks (mostly moms) can look out
- Adding more cabins was the new idea that came 5-6 years ago as I prayerfully thought about how the camp meeting naturally grows
- Purchase of additional land (across Salem Road) for additional tents to get back to “square” (in conjunction with Scenarios 4 & 5)
- Adding a type of daytime gathering place; youth area needed; softball field hasn’t been used in 20 years so it can be whatever; new cemetery options (add another?)
- New cabins and more RV spaces
- Build kids/youth tabernacle in new communal space
- Nobody walks from tabernacle to spring; everyone walks to spring from everywhere else
- Historically, tents built with kitchen in back because families had cooks—new tents should have kitchen in front so cooks (mostly moms) can look out
- Recommendations for improving the grass/ground cover on the camp ground, especially around the tabernacle
- Add plenty of restrooms to newly renovated firehouse
- We need more parking space close to the tabernacle for visitors attending service; security is a concern—how will we address security in the new areas?
- How new road location will affect all
- Small playground for babies/toddlers that will be in view of all (mostly moms) can look out
Living history area: 1840s camp meeting re-enactors like Civil War re-enactors
Front of Salem Road facility
Leasing of the firehouse for financial gain; infrastructure concerns
Enhancing the spring and access to it
Consider two spaces—one for administrative, one for caretaker—so that we can expand to 12 months of activity; A/C in tabernacle

Question 3 - What do you feel absolutely should not change?
Do not tear down existing tents—keep all tents connected to camp ground
Tents should stay around tabernacle
Do not modernize—leave firehouse structure’s look, build new with as much old look as possible
I think you have done a really good job presenting the character while showing how we can develop toward the future
Central focus of tabernacle
Not blocking the view of tabernacle from Salem Road
Tabernacle-focused central design
Tabernacle and memorial garden
Don’t cut down trees
Plans should not change the focus of worship/tabernacle
Keep the open area around the tabernacle; keep tabernacle as focal point
“Flow” of camp ground to encourage fellowship throughout campus
Fried chicken at hotel; sense of community throughout entire camp ground

Current tents (do not remove any!), memorial garden, and trees
Tabernacle, family atmosphere, unpaved floors
Centrality of tabernacle, but with more convenient parking
Don’t move the two cabins in Scenario 2; cars need to be parked behind cabins for practical reasons; don’t build on memorial garden space; don’t build in isolated parts of campus or RV area
Maintain existing structures
Placement of tents is fundamental to the “community” feel of the camp ground; to add new tents you must incorporate them in close proximity to everyone else, otherwise they will end up not feeling part of the community; do not separate tent areas
Do not remove tents or move caretakers’ house
Tabernacle & existing tents (though some modifications are ok); spring

We heard...

NEW TENTS behind the old
ENGAGE the youth
PRESERVE trees & tents
PROCESS

PHASE II: DESIGN CHARRETTE

Building upon the research of the Cultural Landscape Documentation class in Phase I, Phase II occurred in March of 2019 with a design charrette—a multi-day workshop whereby a design team works in concert with local stakeholders to brainstorm possibilities for a particular project site.

The goal of this three-day charrette was to synthesize the board members’ feedback from the six design scenarios into one master plan for future development that included additional family tents that respect the unique nature of the site, and provided opportunities for groups seeking an option for gatherings such as camp-outs, reunions and retreats. The charrette team was led by CED Outreach Director Jennifer Lewis, and included six landscape architecture students, two of whom had also participated in Phase I.
COMBINING DESIGN SCENARIOS

The charrette team’s first objective was to become familiar with the site and understand the desires of the Board based on their collective feedback to a variety of design scenarios. This was achieved by dividing into two groups that would each produce a conceptual plan, weaving preferred ideas together. Group 1 strictly followed all the feedback provided by stakeholders after the board meeting. Group 1, fondly deemed “rabble-rousers” by a Board member, mainly followed the Board’s preferences but also pushed the envelope a bit to generate new ideas.

Group 1 Concept

Group 1 took a light-handed approach to the site to reflect the board members’ preferences.

Since the Board favored the positioning of new tents as presented in Scenario 4 (along the access road), the group situated one cluster of new tents between the current lone two-story tent and the Ramsey Pavilion. A second cluster would be located behind the playground and caretakers’ home, presenting an opportunity for the phased approach that was favored by the Board. This secondary grouping would eventually create a community space for the new families around the Ramsey Pavilion, playground, and a proposed trailhead. Shaping community space was an aspect that everyone agreed is a vital part of camp meeting. Locating it here would help join the new families with current tenters, who already use the pavilion and playground. Creating a new access road behind the new tents ensures that future families would be able to park at their tents without encumbering parking access for the current tenters. The group also identified a potential infill tent site between the Parks-Hicks and Brown-Ingle tents. The team suggested moving the maintenance area to make it more convenient to the rest of the camp ground and hide it from view. They also used the popular idea of yurts to accommodate more guests, situating them just east of the current RV area.

Group 2 Concept

This concept also added tents off a new road loop to the east of the existing tents, just like the board members’ favorite Scenario 4. The team suggested using H-shaped tents to accommodate up to four families apiece, under one roof.

In order to create a safe environment for children to run and play, this plan concentrated parking away from tents to minimize traffic on roads within the camp ground. Parking for cars and RVs was proposed on the northeast corner of the existing tent rows (including a lane of on-street parking) and the current softball field. This helps fulfill the board’s challenge to find a new use for the underutilized ball field.

The group proposed a new connection between the spring and firehouse, and outdoor amenities near the firehouse, so it might be rented out for informal dining or outdoor parties as an event venue. Soft lighting could illuminate the spring area at night to make the area even more usable. Yurts and/or more RV sites could be located north of the new tents, and the existing bath house could be enlarged to accommodate more people.

Lastly, interpretive panels with interchangeable signage could be installed at nodes along the woodland trails, which would draw people to this underutilized asset. A brush arbor was suggested as a youth-led construction project that would tie into the history of the camp ground and provide a unique experience for the week of camp meeting.
The two student groups presented their work to a group of stakeholders—long-time camp meeting attendees from three families—at the midpoint of the charrette on Saturday. The team received valuable feedback that guided their work going forward.

Most importantly, the critique emphasized that the front porches are truly the nucleus of social life at Salem and their spacing and alignment is key, therefore any new development ought to replicate this.

Another concept that was reinforced was that camp meeting attendees required parking directly behind their tents because they often had to leave the premises during the week. They also felt it was important not to isolate any camp meeting attendees, so they dissuaded students from siting an RV campground in the current softball field. However, maintaining some separation between families seemed to be a guideline—the stakeholders thought that multi-family H-shaped tents might be too communal.

Since building new tents is expensive, the stakeholders liked the idea of implementing yurts as an alternative. For prospective camp meeting families, they require less commitment and financial burden than building a tent or purchasing an RV and are more comfortable than camping in a traditional tent on the ground. However, it would be important for the yurts to have water and electric access.

The stakeholders stressed that the trails through the woods were of secondary importance to the rest of the camp ground. They liked the idea of interpretive panels around the grounds but felt that placing them along trails would be futile since the trails are only utilized infrequently. However, the woods were recognized as a potential asset, and the outdoor “rooms” were appealing. Stakeholders saw exciting potential in the concept of the youth brush arbor and encouraged students to pursue this idea.

After receiving this feedback, the charrette team aimed to combine the best of both plans into one final master plan. Priority areas included infill tents on the inner circle and along the access road east of the existing tents, the yurt area, the spring/firehouse area, and the woods.
The rhythm of existing historic tents and open porches sets the pattern for any new tents. Filling in the missing gaps on the south side of the main horseshoe of tents will help reestablish the close-knit feel that is prevalent on the east and north sides of the camp ground.

One infill site was identified between the Parks–Hicks and Brown–Ingle tents, as well as one site beside the new Piper–Head tent. Also, there is space available between the hotel and the Ogletree tent to add a new family tent.

By reconfiguring parking around the hotel and delineating where cars should park rather than relying on haphazard placement, a similar number of parking spaces could be retained even if a tent is built on a portion of the current parking lot. This would provide a prime site within the inner circle and perpetuate the tight arrangement of porches.

Use the Architectural Design Guidelines provided (see Appendix) to guide infill construction. Key elements are matching setbacks, narrow building footprints, gable roofs, wood/clapboard siding, asphalt shingle/tin sheet roofs, minimal decoration and detail.

When Salem Road is reconfigured and traffic noise is no longer the issue it is currently, an additional tent site may be considered at each end of the north and south rows by the road.

New infill tents like the one at right should bear similar features to existing tents, as per proposed architectural guidelines: wood siding, muted color palette, front porch, matte roofing material, and a square footage of approximately 1400.

Placing new tents with care—in the vacant spaces between existing structures—will help maintain the clustered community feeling of the camp ground. For example, there are potential infill tent sites by the Brown–Ingle (background) and Piper–Head (foreground) tents.

One of the infill tent locations fits in beside the hotel and completes the southeast corner of the tent line. Make space for this new tent to join the coveted inner circle by delineating parking around the hotel rather than allowing cars to park haphazardly. There is room for one or two handicap parking spaces near the kitchen entrance, and a ramp could be added to the porch where only steps currently exist.
Additional tent sites should be designated on the back road as neighbors for the lone two-story tent. Perpetuating the rhythm of tents on this row duplicates a familiar pattern and creates the connection between families that the inner horseshoe of tents enjoys. As is existing, a variety of heights should be used to perpetuate the pattern of one-story and two-story tents, with single stories remaining the majority form.

Mature trees are scattered within this area, and should be retained and protected during construction, continuing the tradition of building around the trees as needed. An access road behind these new tents would accommodate parking for these families.

Densifying the second row of tents should naturally slow traffic to accommodate families passing back and forth, and it puts more eyes on the playground.

Both of these changes could accommodate childrens’ desire for independence to walk and bike at the camp ground, and may create a culture shift around needing cars close by for constant coming and going. Having an offsite area for parking could also prioritize the health of the tree canopy by not parking on tree roots.

The team reflected the Board’s desire for a phased approach by showing all the available infill sites equally. The infill sites could be built upon in any order, or, new tents could be built in adjacent site groups around the same time rather than spacing out from each other. Either way, pre-delineated tent sites ensure that the development pattern resembles existing conditions.

Adding new tents beside the Ramsey Pavilion and on either side of the existing two-story tent perpetuates the pattern that exists in the inner circle.

Densifying the second row of tents should naturally slow traffic to accommodate families passing back and forth, and it puts more eyes on the playground. Children can have more independence to walk and bike around the grounds, and parents feel better knowing there are more eyes on the playground.
Northwest of the new tent sites would be the yurt and RV area. Since the traditional circular yurt design often seen at Georgia state parks would look out of place at Salem, six rectangular “safari tents” set on wooden platforms would provide the same function but with stronger visual appeal.

Choosing safari tents with front porches and aligning them in a tight row as shown on the map would emulate the feeling of the existing front porch culture around the tabernacle. These semi-permanent structures would provide simple yet comfortable shelter to families attending camp meeting but who are not ready to invest in a traditional tent. Plus, safari tents present a novel attraction for other groups to rent. They can be taken down for storage in the off-season, leaving versatile wooden platforms for interpretive areas, stages, or traditional camping in small tents.

These tents can be ordered with or without a small kitchen. However, providing a central primitive outdoor kitchen with a sheltered picnic area would serve the needs of safari tent and RV campers while creating a sense of community by bringing them together. Building a larger bathhouse is also a necessity for accommodating more families, and relocating it behind a group of trees creates a sense of privacy.

This arrangement provides room for three large RV sites and five smaller sites behind the safari tents. This strategic location hides the RVs’ contemporary aesthetic from the vernacular views of the historic horseshoe, while accommodating their need for a greater turning radius with easy ingress and egress.

Camping tents could be accommodated in the woods near the new bathroom for scout troops, youth groups, and others looking for a traditional group camping experience outside of camp meeting week.

Arranging the safari tents in a tight row with porches aligned would ensure that new families get to enjoy the same beloved porch experience as those in the inner circle.
An annual tradition, the spring and the firehouse are visited often during camp meeting, but with improvement this area could be used for more events such as weddings and family reunions.

Although traffic along Salem Road will decrease after the bypass is constructed, it is important to find a safe option for reuniting the camp ground with the spring in the meantime. Further discussion with the GDOT is necessary to plan a temporary solution.

At the firehouse, a well-organized parking lot that included striped parking spaces, shade and flowering trees, and subtle lighting would add beauty to the space. The fire truck bays are non-historic and could be removed as part of a restoration of the original building. On the other hand, retaining the truck bays would provide covered space for outdoor cookouts and other activities as needed (below, left).

The spring has been an important part of Salem’s history since its beginnings, providing a fresh water source for drinking and baptisms, and creating an intimate space where courting would occur amongst young campers. Around the spring, tree health should be evaluated, and trees replaced as necessary. Some of the existing infrastructure (e.g. sidewalk, walls, tables) could use repair. Subtle, motion-activated lighting would provide nighttime usability by increasing security as well as ambiance. Planting native flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials in this area would also enhance its atmosphere.

While the spring and surrounding area are vital, beloved parts of Salem’s past and future, some of the current infrastructure could be improved for greater safety, accessibility, and aesthetic appeal.
The first camp meetings at Salem were held under a brush arbor, harking back to the Feast of Tabernacles described in Leviticus 23:40-43. This Judeo-Christian festival is observed by Salem in perpetuity, honoring the Israelites who lived in tents (or “booths”) in the Egyptian desert on their way to the Promised Land during Exodus by requiring observers to stay in temporary shelter for a week each July.

While different sects of Christians and Jews observe the festival in various ways, a youth-led exercise during camp meetings at Salem could recreate a traditional brush arbor as a connection to the camp’s origins. There could be a pre-existing simple structure in the woods built with hand-hewn timbers set into the ground, and camp meeting youth begin the week collecting limbs and branches nearby to cover and decorate the arbor. It could be a week-long activity or a signature event on one day. At the end of the meeting, it could be taken down so that new children and teens who come the next year can add their own personal additions, reiterating and practicing the ancient story.

At the close of every camp meeting, the whole congregation would celebrate the young campers’ work on the brush arbor by hosting a service or ceremony underneath it. Perhaps there could be a lantern walk and songs or prayers led by youth. Reviving the brush arbor tradition would be an extra special way for Salem to honor its roots for the upcoming 200th anniversary of the camp meeting.

As environmental issues are presenting themselves worldwide, the United Methodist Church recently made a statement on their views (see left). About 10% of American Protestants are Methodist, so many Christians today (including the congregation of neighboring Salem United Methodist Church) might share this sentiment of theologically-rooted environmentalism. Although not directly tied to the Methodist church, Salem can help further the Christian mission by fostering this ethic of stewardship. Paths, trees, and clearings in the woods could be utilized for teaching scripture or prayer. Ecologically-inspired Bible verses might guide a woodland walk as signposts along the way. Posting verses in the woods could also be inviting to other Christian groups seeking a retreat location, inviting them to enjoy this underutilized asset. Embedding Bible verses into the forest could create another sacred space on site, generating a direct connection from the spring through the tabernacle and into the forest, fostering a deeper sense of place throughout the whole camp ground.

“Brush Arbor & Forest Trails”

Feast of Tabernacles – Leviticus 23:40-43

23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.

23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the Lord seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

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“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.”

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016

[MASTER PLAN]
The way a space evolves, what it is used for, what it used to be, and what it wants to be, are all products of its ongoing progression through time. In order to determine and interpret how a space should be used in the future, it is important to know how it has been used in the past. This way, the cultural history embedded in the site will continue to drive its usage forward.

As the world around Salem Camp Ground develops, its members have been forced to exist between the tension of progression at the risk of losing their culture, and being lost amongst the outward sprawl of Atlanta and development if they don’t change with the times. The history of this place and its surrounding area lays the foundation for how the land was, is, and could be used.

Looking at precedent studies can be a valuable way to gain insight and ideas. Further research is recommended on how other traditional camp meeting grounds perpetuate vernacular building styles without having to meet current residential building codes, which have been financially prohibitive to Salem tenters, and is not in keeping with Salem’s historic character. Initial discussions with Preservation North Carolina (PNC), our sister state’s historic preservation non-profit, have established conversations in this regard. North Carolina has several large, active camp meetings that are expanding their tents with traditional building practices. Salem’s Board should consult with their staff, including former PNC staff member, Claudia Deviney, who has done the most research on Georgia’s camp meeting grounds. Claudia still attends the camp meeting of her childhood—Mossy Creek Campground in White County, Georgia—and, as of this writing, has returned home to Georgia.

Some of the stakeholders and charrette team students voiced concerns about the health of Salem’s cherished mature shade trees. Many of the trees are plagued by holes or pests, and some are simply approaching the ends of their lifespans. The tree canopy is such an important part of Salem’s atmosphere and culture that the charrette team recommends working with a professional arborist or potentially a group from UGA’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources to develop a sustainable tree management plan.

Since the 1820s when camp meetings were first held at Salem, the camp ground has been a place for families to escape their hectic lives, foster a sense of community, and worship together. Salem has remained a constant in its members’ lives for many years. The long, rich history of the camp meeting continues to prove the values and commitment of those at Salem to preserve this tradition for future generations.
The UGA team would like to thank Roland Vaughn and the Salem Board of Directors for trusting us with researching a unique piece of our nation’s history that is sacred for generations of their families. We are grateful to have been given such an extraordinary opportunity, and have felt embraced in every trip to Salem! Thank you for opening this special place to us so that we might learn its traditions and understand its value.

Service-learning experiences are valued for the reciprocal learning that takes place and the relationships that are formed over enjoyable work. Our hope is that this research and planning exercise gives Salem good guidance in continuing to appeal to a new generation—your camp ground and traditions will certainly charm groups seeking to commune with nature and find fellowship.

Finally, Cari and Jennifer would like to thank all the participants that attended this project—you went above and beyond in embracing this research and volunteering for the charrette and we truly enjoyed learning with you!

One of the favorite traditions at Salem is gathering for a meal at the long, red-clothed tables in the hotel dining room. We were blessed to be hosted and fed by Kim Hicks and her niece, Sarah, during our stays. Our weekend charrette happened to be the last event before she and her husband Wayne left for their well-deserved retirement. Kim embodied the sweet, sweet spirit of Salem with her delicious cooking and amazing hugs! Thank you for spoiling us like family.

Salem Camp Ground Board of Directors

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Joanna McDonald
Dan Morgan
Joe Cook
Jane Langford
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Works Cited


**ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines were developed from the existing character of Salem Camp Ground’s built environment. After analyzing aspects such as layout, square footage, height, material, and features, the common characteristics were identified. While these guidelines are not meant to be set in stone, it is recommended that these guidelines be kept in mind during future development to maintain the character of the site.

**Plan**

The majority of tents are front gabled, rectangular in plan, with front and/or rear entrances located on the short elevations. The square footage of the tents is between ~848 and ~1,863 sq. ft., at an average of ~1,400 for one-story tents. For two-story tents the square footage is between ~1,140 and ~1,868, at an average of ~1,450 sq. ft. However, Brown-Ingle serves as a one-story outlier both in plan and square footage at ~2,729.

One- and two-story tents are present within the camp ground, in addition to the two-story hotel. Caution should be used when considering the inclusion and placement of additional two-story tents so as to avoid altering the historic character of the site. One-story tents range from ~12’ to 17’ in height. Two-story tents range from ~18’ to 22’-10” in height, exceeded only by the hotel at 28’ and the tabernacle at 30’.

**Materials**

**Roofing**

Roofing materials include pressed sheet, corrugated sheet, and asphalt shingles. Most metal roofing materials on site have a matte finish due to natural patina or paint. A highly reflective metal roof is not recommended to avoid detracting from the rustic character, as well as surrounding buildings generally.

**Siding**

The traditional material used for siding at Salem is wooden clapboard, however, wooden novelty siding was also utilized. Many wood alternatives are also present, including vinyl, composite vertical board, and fiber cement siding. Many wood alternatives include concrete masonry blocks (CMUs) and stucco finish. It is recommended that wooden clapboard siding remain the primary material for whenever possible, followed by a wood alternative.

**Windows**

The following window types are used throughout the site:
- Double hung sash: 1/1, 2/2, 4/4, 6/6, 8/8
- Fixed: 3x2, 2x3, 3x3, 1x2, 4x2
- Casements: 2x3
- Rectangular or square openings with wooden doors

There are typically two windows on the front and rear facades of the tents, oriented symmetrically on the sides of the entrances. The sides of the tents typically include 4-8 windows, relatively evenly spaced.

**Ground Cover**

The tents vary in levels of rusticity with both wood shavings and paved ground cover. The oldest tents have wood shaving ground cover on the interior and exterior of the tents. Some tents have maintained wood shavings under the porch, while having flooring on the interior. Many tents have paved porches and flooring on the interior.

**Exterior Color**

The exterior colors present within the camp ground are white, off-white, grey, green, blue-grey, yellow, light brown, red, and maroon. Many tents include an overall base color with an additional color for trim/details. Freedom with diversity of colors can maintain the natural progression of development on the site, however, it is recommended that future paint reflects a similar color palette.

**Porches**

A common feature within Salem Camp Ground is the inclusion of porches, both front and rear. The front porches are typically full width while the rear porch may be a full porch, a stoop with a partial porch-like covering, or a stoop with an awning supported by wooden brackets. Porch supports are usually squared wooden posts, rounded wooden posts, or metal poles. Porch roofing materials may be any of the roofing materials listed above. Shingled and half-baffled are the most common porch roof types. Ground cover types include wood shavings, paved, or raised wooden platforms. The porches are most frequently open-air, but some are screened in. To maintain similar scale and massing, it is recommended that porches span the full width or nearly the full width of the front façade of the tents and are no taller than 2/3 the height of the tent.

**Decorative Features**

Decorative features present on the site are exposed rafter tails, decorative shutters, statement color trim, wooden lattice trim along porches, and built-in seating and tables on several porches.

APPENDIX
ARCHITECTURE ANALYSIS

The data on the following pages was created by the Cultural Landscape Documentation class. It describes each major structure at Salem Camp Ground. Each structure corresponds to a letter shown on the map.

Dimensions:
- A - Jenkins and Milton Tent: 19' x 60' 6"
- B - TGFS: 25' 11" x 49' 11"
- C - Howington-Plunkett Tent: 40' 5" x 46'
- D - "Green Tent": 17' 11" x 73' 11"
- E - Elliott Tent: 24' 4" x 70' 9"

Front Porch:
- A: Front and rear; centered on short ends; regular doors
- B: Front and rear; on short ends; front entrance off center, regular door; rear entrance centered, regular door
- C: Front and rear; off center; regular doors
- D: Front and rear; centered on short ends; regular doors
- E: Front and rear; centered on short ends; regular doors

Rear Porch:
- A: Square wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; paved ground cover
- B: Metal pole supports with pressed sheet shed roof; unpaved ground cover
- C: Square wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; paved ground cover
- D: Square wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; unpaved ground cover
- E: Square wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; unpaved ground cover

Stories:
- A: 2
- B: 1
- C: 1
- D: 1
- E: 1

Materials:
- Siding:
  - A: White clapboard
  - B: Grey stucco over concrete masonry units (CMU)
  - C: White painted concrete masonry units (CMU)
  - D: Green vertical board
  - E: Light blue clapboard

- Roofing:
  - A: Pressed sheet
  - B: Pressed sheet
  - C: Pressed sheet
  - D: Asphalt shingle
  - E: Asphalt shingle

- Shape:
  - A: Rectangular
  - B: Rectangular
  - C: Nearly square
  - D: Rectangular
  - E: Rectangular

- Windows:
  - A: 2/2 double hung sash, side elevations, single; square openning on 2nd story rear and side elevations with wooden doors
  - B: 1/1 double hung sash, front and side elevations, single and paired
  - C: 6/6 double hung sash, front, rear, and side elevations, single and paired
  - D: 6/6 double hung sash, front, side elevation; 4/4 double hung sash, side elevation; 8/8 double hung sash, rear and side elevations; single
  - E: 6/6 double hung sash, front, side, and rear elevations, single

- Roof Type:
  - A: Front gable
  - B: Front gable
  - C: Side gable
  - D: Front gable
  - E: Front gable

- Front Porch:
  - A: Metal pole supports; pressed sheet shed roof; paved ground cover
  - B: Squared wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; panel ground cover; exposed rafter tails
  - C: Metal pole supports; pressed sheet shed roof; panel ground cover; exposed rafter tails
  - D: Squared wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; panel ground cover; exposed rafter tails
  - E: Squared wooden supports; asphalt shingle shed roof; panel ground cover; exposed rafter tails

- Rear Porch:
  - A: Square wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; panel ground cover
  - B: Squared wooden supports; pressed sheet shed roof; panel ground cover
  - C: Metal pole supports with pressed sheet shed roof; unpaved ground cover
  - D: Pressed sheet shed awning over steep with support brackets; unpaved ground cover
  - E: Asphalt shingle shed awning over steep with support brackets; paved

- Other:
  - A: White clapboard in gables; light blue details; exposed rafter tails
  - B: White clapboard in gables; dark green details
  - C: White clapboard in gables; dark green details
  - D: White trim
  - E: White trim, exposed rafters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Materials:</th>
<th>Windows:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front Porch</td>
<td>Rectangular</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>~ 1,263</td>
<td>Stories 1:2</td>
<td>3x2 fixed, front, rear, and side elevations, double hung sash, single and paired</td>
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<td>1/1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front</td>
<td>Rectangular</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stories</td>
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<td>~ 1,344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Siding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roofing</td>
<td>Asphalt shingle</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>~ 1,732</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entrance</td>
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<td>12'</td>
<td>~ 1,732</td>
<td>Roof Type:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windows</td>
<td>1/1 double hung sash, front, side, and rear elevations</td>
<td>15' 8&quot;</td>
<td>~ 1,732</td>
<td>Roof Type:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Porch</td>
<td>Metal pole supports; pressed sheet shed roof; paved ground cover</td>
<td>18' 8&quot;</td>
<td>~ 1,732</td>
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<td>Roof Type:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>White trim</td>
<td>12' 3&quot;</td>
<td>~ 1,732</td>
<td>Roof Type:</td>
<td>6/6 double hung sash, single and paired</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dimensions:
- **Front Porch**: 19' x 60' 1.5"
- **Rear Porch**: 25' 11" x 49' 11"
- **Stories**: 4 stories
- **Roof Type**: Jerkinhead gable
- **Materials**: Stories 1: White clapboard
- **Windows**: 3x2 fixed, front, rear, and side elevations
- **Siding**: Green vertical board
- **Roofing**: Asphalt shingle
- **Entrances**: Front and rear, centered on short ends, regular doors
- **Roof Type**: Metal pole supports; exposed rafters
- **Materials**: Stories 1: White clapboard
- **Windows**: 6/6 double hung sash, single and paired
- **Siding**: White clapboard
- **Roofing**: Asphalt shingle
- **Entrances**: Front and rear; centered on short ends, regular doors
- **Roof Type**: Metal pole supports; exposed rafters
- **Materials**: Stories 1: White clapboard
- **Windows**: 6/6 double hung sash, single and paired
- **Siding**: White clapboard
- **Roofing**: Asphalt shingle
- **Entrances**: Front and rear; centered on short ends, regular doors
- **Roof Type**: Metal pole supports; exposed rafters
- **Materials**: Stories 1: White clapboard
- **Windows**: 6/6 double hung sash, single and paired
- **Siding**: White clapboard
- **Roofing**: Asphalt shingle
- **Entrances**: Front and rear; centered on short ends, regular doors
- **Roof Type**: Metal pole supports; exposed rafters
- **Materials**: Stories 1: White clapboard
- **Windows**: 6/6 double hung sash, single and paired
- **Siding**: White clapboard
- **Roofing**: Asphalt shingle

Other:
- **Exposed rafter tails**: White trim
- **White clapboard in gables; dark green details, exposed rafter tails**: White trim
- **White painted concrete masonry units (CMU)**: White vinyl
- **Green vertical board**: White vinyl
- **Grey stucco over concrete masonry units (CMU)**: White vinyl
- **White vertical board**: White vinyl

U - **"Gray Tent"**
V - **Cunningham-Ramsey Tent**
W - **"Red Foundation Tent"**
X - **Ogletree Tent**
Y - **LARGE SHED**
<table>
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<th>Dimensions:</th>
<th>10' 4&quot; x 16' 5&quot;</th>
<th>28' 2.75&quot; x 51' 10&quot;</th>
<th>6.5&quot; and 20' 1&quot; x 58'</th>
<th>11' 10.5&quot; x 20' and 11' 10.5&quot; x 20' 1&quot;</th>
<th>16' x 36'</th>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Siding White vinyl</td>
<td>Siding Yellow vinyl</td>
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<td>~ 1,680</td>
<td>~ 2,729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
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<td>~13'</td>
<td>~17'3&quot;</td>
<td>~16'</td>
<td>~14'</td>
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<tr>
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<td>~ 1,505</td>
<td>~ 1,800</td>
<td>~ 1,580</td>
<td>~ 576</td>
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<td>~17'</td>
<td>~22' 10&quot;</td>
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<td>~ 1,800</td>
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<td>~ 576</td>
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<td>~17'</td>
<td>~14'</td>
<td>~13'</td>
<td>~13'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other

- Decorative shutters; black-grey details
- Exposed rafter tails
- Ranch house; decorative shutters (red)
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Pressed sheet shed roof; opened;
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Sides
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
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- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
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- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
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- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
- Unpainted concrete masonry units (CMU)
- Open air with siding on front and rear gables and restroom enclosures; Paved ground cover
- Pressed sheet sheet roof; unpaved
| **Dimensions:** | 28' 6" x 79' 6" | 10' 2" x 13' 2" | 10' x 14' |
| **Front Porch** | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| **Rear Porch** | 13' 2" x 13' 2" | N/A | N/A |
| **Height** | ~16' 2" | ~16' | ~16' |
| **Square Feet** | ~2,265 | ~172 | ~140 |
| **Roof Type** | Side gable | Hipped | Side gable |
| **Stories** | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Materials:** | Red brick | Red brick | Red vertical board |
| **Siding** | Asphalt shingle | Asphalt shingle | Corrugated sheet |
| **Roofing** | Rectangular | Rectangular | Rectangular |
| **Shape** | Rectangular | Rectangular | Rectangular |
| **Entrances** | Front, rear, and side; front—on long end, off-center, regular door; side—under carport, regular door; rear—under rear porch, regular door | Front; double door style front entrance with "S" detail in front decade; Wooden hinged door with latch on long end | Front; double door style front entrance with "S" detail in front decade; Wooden hinged door with latch on long end |
| **Windows** | 1/1 double hung sash, front, side, and rear elevations, single and paired | 1/4 double hung sash, side elevation, single | 1/4 double hung sash, side elevation, single |
| **Front Porch** | Recessed stoop | N/A | N/A |
| **Rear Porch** | Squared wooden supports; gabled asphalt shingle roof; screened-in with vinyl half-wall; white vinyl siding in gable | N/A | N/A |
| **Other** | Ranch house; square, brick supports to carport; decorative shutters | Ranch/wood utility room; asphalt side and rear; enclosed with black gates; wooden door entry with latch; Decorative brackets in roof overhang | Ranch/wood utility room; asphalt side and rear; enclosed with black gates; wooden door entry with latch; Decorative brackets in roof overhang |

*AN - Vaughn House AO - Spring House AP - Vaughn Shed*