

THE HIDDEN TOWN:

BLACK SETTLEMENT IN SALEM NORTH CAROLINA AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

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INTRODUCTION

MY PROJECT IS A COLLABORATION WITH THE HIDDEN TOWN PROJECT AT OLD SALEM MUSEUM & GARDENS TO UNCOVER AND HIGHLIGHT BLACK LIVES AT THE MORAVIAN COMMUNITY. MY RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON A BLACK FAMILY, THE ROGERS, FROM 1900-1910. THIS SCOPE PROVIDES A SNAPSHOT OF BLACK SETTLEMENT IN WINSTON-SALEM BEFORE RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION TOOK HOLD IN 1912.

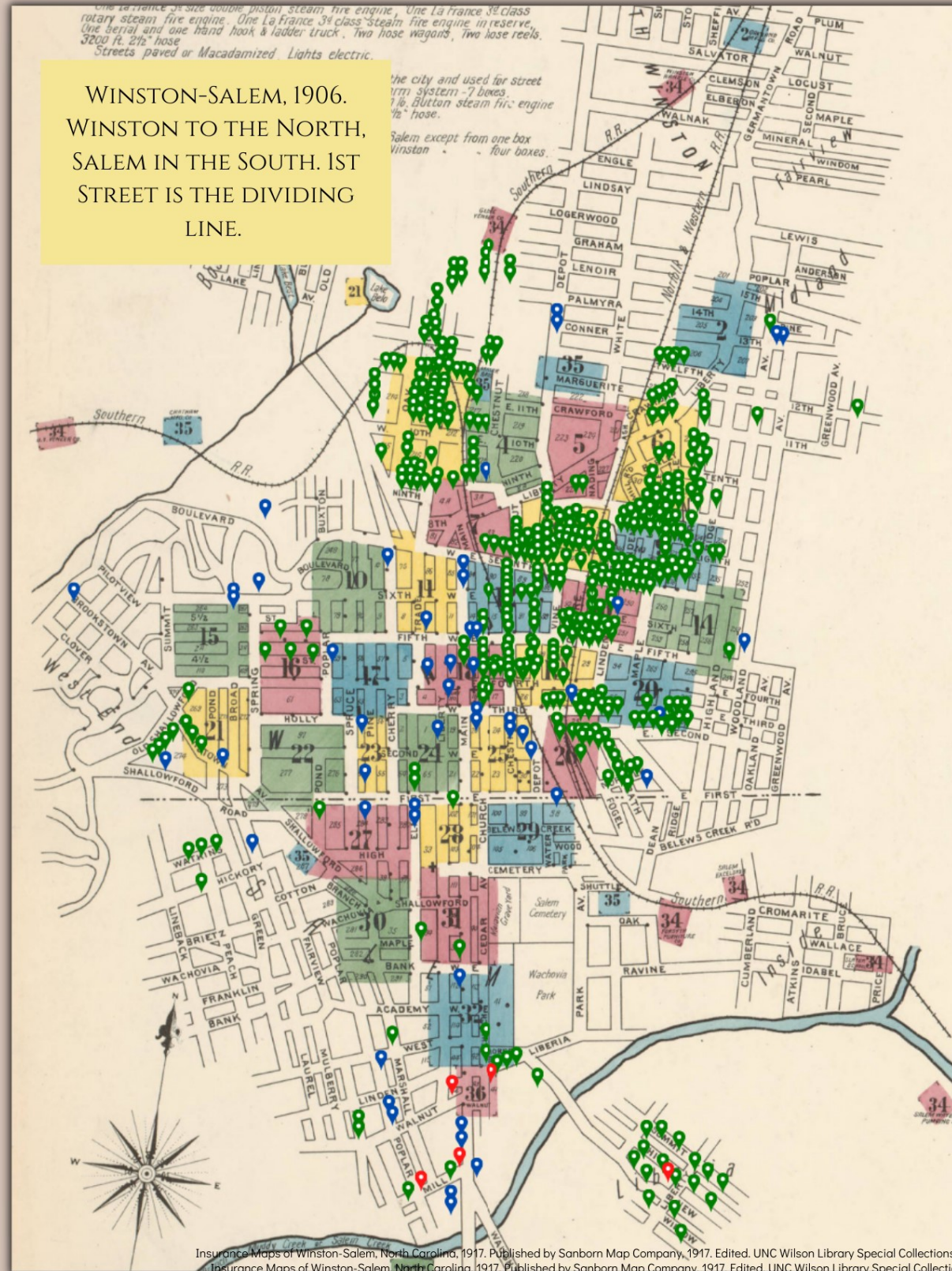
METHODOLOGY

MY RESEARCH CONSIDERS RACE AND SPACE AS THE PRIMARY FRAMEWORKS TO UNDERSTAND BLACK LIFE, AGENCY, AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS AT THE EMERGENCE OF THE JIM CROW SOUTH. MY SOURCES CONSIST PRIMARILY OF MAPS, DIRECTORIES, CENSUS RECORDS, AND OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENTS.

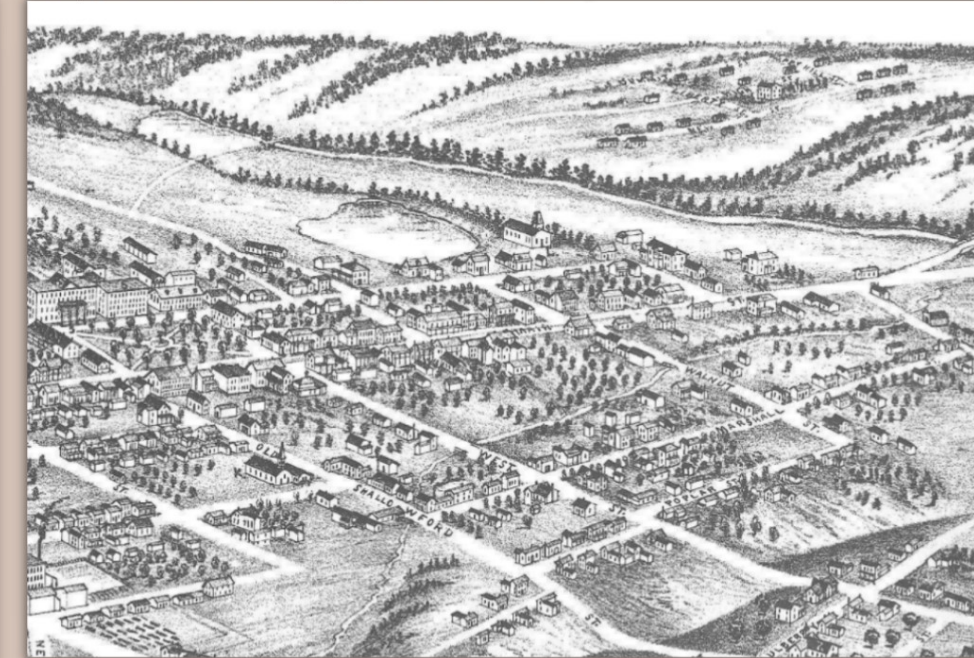
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. WHERE WERE BLACK RESIDENTS LIVING IN SALEM AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY?
2. HOW DID CHANGING RACIAL DYNAMICS PLAY OUT ON SALEM'S BUILT LANDSCAPE?
3. WHAT CAN THIS FAMILY TELL US ABOUT HOW BLACK RESIDENTS LIVED WITHIN A RAPIDLY SEGREGATING SOCIETY?

WINSTON-SALEM, 1906.
WINSTON TO THE NORTH,
SALEM IN THE SOUTH. 1ST
STREET IS THE DIVIDING
LINE.



Bird's Eye View, 1891, detail with Salem and Happy Hill. Old Salem Museum & Gardens



OBSTACLES

1. LACK OF FIRST PERSON PRIMARY SOURCES
2. INCONSISTENT AND UNCLEAR RECORDS
3. COVID-19/INCONSISTENT ACCESS TO ARCHIVES

OUTCOMES

THE ROGERS' LIVES MIMIC LARGER PATTERNS IN WINSTON AND SALEM'S BLACK POPULATION. THE ROGERS LIVED IN MOSTLY BLACK ENCLAVES ON THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN SIDES OF SALEM. IN 1906, THEY WERE ONE OF MANY BLACK FAMILIES TO LIVE ON THE PROPERTY OF THEIR WHITE EMPLOYER. BUT BLACK SETTLEMENT WAS INCREASINGLY SHAPED BY INSTITUTIONALIZED SEGREGATION, RESULTING IN HIGH-DENSITY LIVING CENTERED AROUND BOTTOM LANDS, RAILROADS, AND INDUSTRIAL HUBS.

RESOURCES

- SHIRLEY, MICHAEL. FROM CONGREGATION TOWN TO INDUSTRIAL CITY: CULTURE AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN A SOUTHERN COMMUNITY. NEW YORK CITY: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1997.
- SENSBACH, JON. A SEPARATE CANAAN: THE MAKING OF AN AFRO-MORAVIAN WORLD IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1763-1840. WILLIAMSBURG: OMOHUNDRO INSTITUTE OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS, 1998.
- PASCHAL, RICHARD A. JIM CROW IN NORTH CAROLINA: THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FROM 1865 TO 1920. DURHAM: CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS, 2020
- CITY DIRECTORIES, WINSTON-SALEM. FORSYTH COUNTY NC GENWEB. WINSTON-SALEM, NC. [HTTP://NCGENWEB.US/FORSYTH/BIBLIOGRAPHY/CITY-DIRECTORIES/](http://ncgenweb.us/forsyth/bibliography/city-directories/).
- THE ARCHIVES AT OLD SALEM MUSEUM & GARDENS AND, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

SPECIAL THANKS



- 📍 THE ROGERS FAMILY
- 📍 ONE FOR EVERY THREE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD LISTED (BY BLOCK AND STREET)
- 📍 ONE FOR EVERY ONE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD LISTED (BY BLOCK AND STREET)

