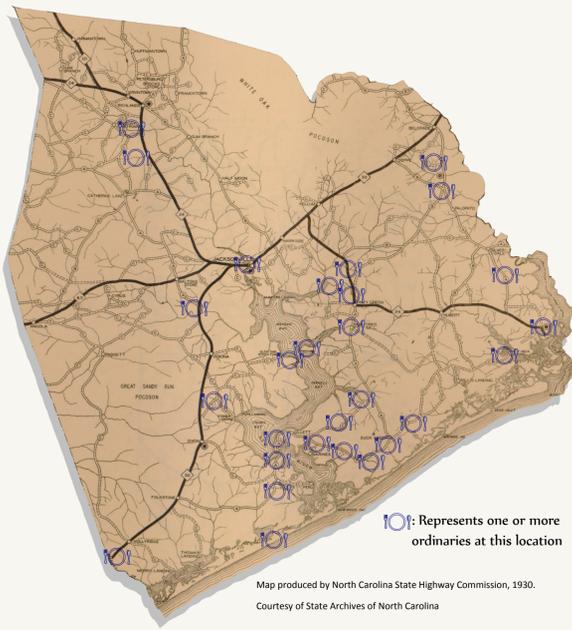


EATING OUT



An Inordinate Number of Ordinaries: These markers represent the locations of some of the ordinaries found in colonial Onslow from 1732 - 1775. The large number of ordinaries here might be due to the location of Onslow along routes leading from Wilmington to Newbern.

People have been eating away from home in Onslow County since nearly the county's inception. Ordinaries, another word for taverns, were established before the county officially formed in 1734. Located near ferries, the county courthouse, and along roads leading towards New Bern and Wilmington, these places offered both food and drink as well as a place to sleep and stable your horse. The county court regulated the prices paid at ordinaries, which had to be posted for patrons

to see. In addition to buying rum, punch, beer, wine, and cider, ordinary visitors could also buy "a meal of good hot meat roast or boiled and bread sufficient to eat."

Ordinaries provided food but also a place for Onslowans as well as travelers to congregate, do business, and share the news. Restaurants of the recent past share some of these qualities. After World War Two new restaurants like Luigi's Spaghetti House, Arnolds, The Toot n Tell it, The It Drive In , The Ark, The Whistlin' Pig, The Riverview Café, and The Seafarer all allowed people to gather around food. While some of these restaurants opened during segregation, they also became places of diversity as the civil rights movement changed the cultural landscape of America.

Today's restaurants showcase the diversity that grew in Onslow County after World War Two. Many cultures are represented by restaurants such as Marrakesh, The Old Siam, Lilliana's, El Cerro Grande, and Thig's BBQ. However, many multi-chain franchise family restaurants also make up

the foodscape of Onslow. The familiarity and consistency of these restaurants helps serve a growing population including marines stationed in Onslow along with their families as well as an increasing number of tourists. Did you know that there are 464 food service establishments currently operating in Onslow County?

Banquets, cafeterias, and restaurants all bring people together to enjoy each other's company while they ate. Pictured here are the Jacksonville Police Department oyster roast, the Clyde Erwin Elementary cafeteria, and the first cooks at the Howard Johnson's.

