

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Winston-Salem City Hall

Local Historic Landmark #115

101 N. Main St., Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1926

Landmark Designation Date: 05/17/2004

Winston's first Town Hall was built in 1892 and was located at the corner of E. Fourth and N. Main Streets. However in 1924, due to the increasing importance of industry in the central city, the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen directed the mayor to appoint a Special Committee to investigate the construction of a new City Hall at another location. City Hall was moved, in large part, to accommodate the construction of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company headquarters. The Art Deco skyscraper housing the tobacco company was completed on the original Town Hall site in 1929.

In February 1925, \$550,000 worth of bonds were issued for the purpose of constructing a new City Hall. The current City Hall site (at the corner of N. Main and E. First Streets) dates back to the earliest days of Winston's establishment. Judge D.H. Starbuck purchased the property during one of the first auctions of lots in Winston around 1849. The City acquired the property in 1920 and the lot was cleared for construction of City Hall. In 1926, the building housing the offices of Winston-Salem's local government was completed. Today, it stands as a physical representative of the power exerted by industry during the early 20th century and has served as the seat of the city's local government ever since.



Winston-Salem City Hall, 1930
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library
Photograph Collection via Digital Forsyth
(<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)



Winston-Salem City Hall is the city's only example of Renaissance Revival civic architecture and was designed by the well-known architectural firm of Northup and O'Brien. This prolific architectural firm was responsible for many of Forsyth County's outstanding buildings in the 1920s and 1930s, such as Bowman Gray's estate, Graylyn, the R.E. Lasater Mill, and Merry Acres, home of R.J. Reynolds, Jr. Unlike these homes, City Hall is a government building, and is only one of two extant civic buildings designed by the firm in Winston-Salem. Northup and O'Brien designed City Hall in a Renaissance palazzo form, with a rusticated stone base and pilasters at the upper stories, where red brick walls give a Colonial Revival character. The three-story Renaissance Revival-style building's façade has a slightly projecting central section, a stone roof balustrade, window surrounds, and cornice. The building features an elaborate interior with heavy crown molding and a grand staircase with marble treads



Winston-Salem City Hall rendering, Date Unknown
Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files

and metal filigree balustrade. It stands at what was the southern edge of Winston, near a marker (100 block, W. First Street) at the "Former Dividing Line" between Winston and Salem. Today, City Hall is an integral part of Winston-Salem's downtown streetscape.

A historic marker was placed at Winston-Salem City Hall in 2003 as part of the City of Winston-Salem's Historic Marker Program.



Today Winston-Salem City Hall remains as the seat of Winston-Salem's municipal government.

In 2003, City Hall was rededicated after a major rehabilitation project was completed.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

City Hall National Register Nomination
<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/FY0740.pdf>

<http://www.ci.winston-salem.nc.us/Home/CityGovernment/CityManager/Articles/CityHallNationalRegister>

http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/nc_post&CISOPTR=6758&CISOBX=1&REC=14

<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/?query=winston-salem&facet.workLocation=Forsyth%20County>



This information is also available
at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission's web site:
<http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>