

# LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Robert M. Hanes House

Local Historic Landmark #124

140 N. Stratford Rd, Winston-Salem

Construction Date: 1926

Landmark Designation Date: 07/18/2011

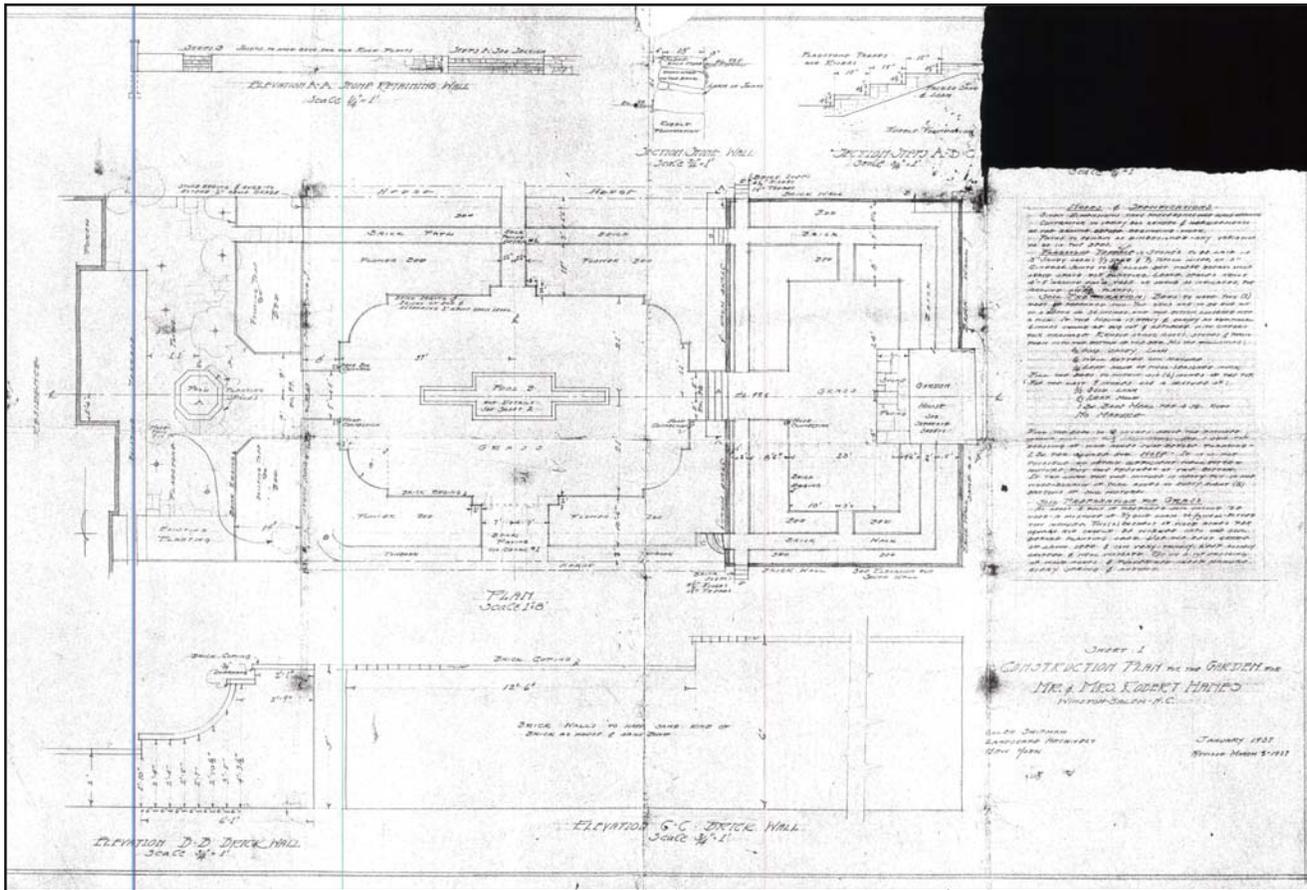
During the 1920s, Winston-Salem was the largest city in North Carolina due to its unprecedented economic growth. Many men of prominence in industry, commerce, and other fields contributed to this boom period, and many fortunes were made. One of those men was Robert M. Hanes. Hanes's contributions to his city, his state, and even to his country, elevate him to a position of singular importance.

Robert M. Hanes (1890-1959), served as president of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company (Local Historic Landmark #116 and #118) from the difficult days of the Depression through the years of growth and expansion following World War II. His role at the company helped to shape the future of the banking industry in Winston-Salem and North Carolina. During those years, Wachovia's deposits grew from \$40 million to \$400 million, and it became the largest bank between Philadelphia and Dallas. Working with the American Bankers Association, and especially while serving as its president in 1939, Hanes made a lasting mark on the nation's economic practices. In 1949, President Truman appointed Hanes chief of the Belgium-Luxembourg Mission of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA) and later, Director of Economic Affairs for West Germany. His role in the implementation of the Marshall Plan helped restore German production and trade, and thus economic stability, in post World War II Europe. As Chairman of the Research Triangle Committee during the mid 1950s, Hanes was a strong force in the early development of what became the renowned Research Triangle Park. In 1965, less than a decade after Hanes's death, The State magazine named him "the most competent North Carolinian of his generation."

Robert M. Hanes selected the prominent Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen (the architect for Reynolda House) to design his house. The 2½-story, Georgian Revival house is a representative and remarkably little-altered example of the group of residences designed by Keen and built during the 1920s, when Winston-Salem was at its pinnacle and Keen was the architect of choice



for several of the city's elite. The house has Flemish-bond brick walls and a side-gable, slate-shingled roof with a modillion cornice across the front and rear, with cornice returns at each end. Interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise above each gable end. Across the front of the roof, three evenly-spaced dormers have round-arched double-hung sash windows with a keystone detail at the top of the arched surround. The main block of the house has a symmetrical five-bay façade with a central entrance flanked by two French doors on either side. The recessed



Shipman Garden Plan, 1937  
 Courtesy of Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's Files

entry has a six-paneled door topped by a leaded-glass transom with alternating circles and diamonds. Fluted pilasters flank the door and support a full classical entablature with a segmental-arched, modillion cornice.

In 1937, Hanes hired the prominent New York architect, Ellen Biddle Shipman to design a garden for the property. In 1933, House and Garden magazine had named Shipman the “dean of American women landscape architects.” Upon Shipman’s death in 1950, The New York Times called her “one of the leading landscape architects of the United States.” Shipman’s design for the property included an axial layout with a short vista, small lawns, a terrace, well-defined paths, walls, pools in a variety of shapes, a garden house, and a secluded seating area.

The Robert M. Hanes House property is one of Winston-Salem’s finest reminders of its outstanding individuals, history, architecture, and landscape architecture.

Today the Robert M. Hanes House is privately occupied.



Robert March Hanes, 1950  
 Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection via Digital Forsyth (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org>)

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<http://docsouth.unc.edu/wwi/hanesletters/menu.html>

[http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Hanes,Robert\\_March.ht](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/h/Hanes,Robert_March.ht)



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