

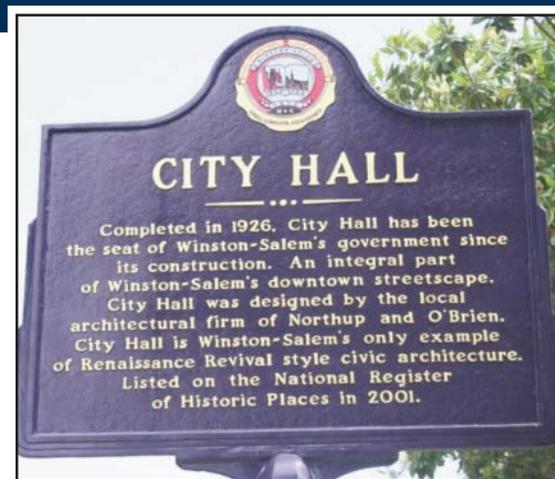
HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

City Hall

Winston's first Town Hall was built in 1892 and was located at the corner of East Fourth and North 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 North Main and East 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 ultimately 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 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



City Hall, 1930

Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection

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

In 2001, Winston-Salem City Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2004, it was designated as a Forsyth County Local Historic Landmark.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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

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

<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>

