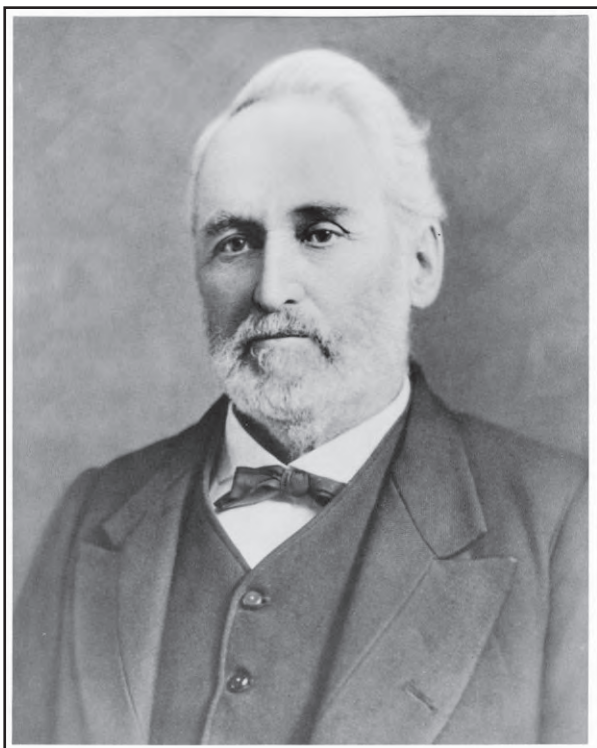


# HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

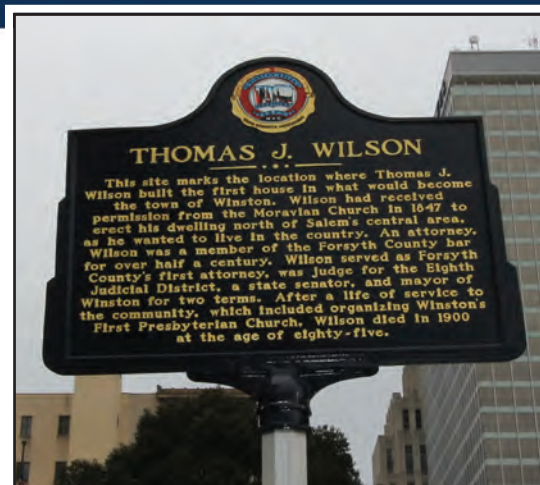
## Thomas J. Wilson

Thomas Johnston Wilson (1815-1900) owned the only residence in Winston when the town was established to be the government center of newly-formed Forsyth County in 1849. He had purchased the land for his house from the Salem Moravians in 1847, looking for a quiet place in the country to build his residence.



Wilson was an important figure in the histories of both Winston and Forsyth County, primarily for having served in public office. He was the first Attorney for the County of Forsyth and represented the county as a state senator in the North Carolina General Assembly. As a senator, he was a member of the convention called to vote on the question of secession from the United States, where he made the unpopular suggestion that the voters of North Carolina should decide their own fate.

Before serving in the State Senate, Wilson was the Mayor of Winston and a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church. At the time, the area's Presbyterian citizens did not have an official place of worship, so Wilson offered his home as a place to hold services. Over time, the desire for a



more permanent (and convenient) home for the local Presbyterians led to the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church in present-day Downtown. Though not the original structure, the church still stands at the intersection of Third and Cherry Streets.

The former site of Winston's first residence is on the northern side of Second Street, where the current Hall of justice is situated.



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