United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic Salem Town Hall  
and/or common Salem Town Hall  

2. Location  

street & number 301 South Liberty Street  
city, town Winston-Salem  
state North Carolina  

3. Classification  

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4. Owner of Property  

name 1909 Partnership (Keith Y. Sharpe & Stephen C. Leverton)  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Register of Deeds  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title From Frontier To Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County  
has this property been determined eligible? X yes no  
date 1981  

depository for survey records North Carolina Division of Archives and History  

7. Additional Information  


## 7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The former Salem Town Hall is prominently located on the southeast corner of South Liberty and Cemetery Streets, between Winston-Salem's central business district and the Old Salem historic district. Typical of public urban structures, the building absorbs nearly the entire lot on which it stands.

The Town Hall was designed by prominent Winston-Salem architect Willard C. Northup and erected in 1912 by Fogle Brothers, an equally prominent and prolific local building firm. The building is an interesting expression of early 20th century eclecticism, combining primarily Italianate and local Moravian influences.

The original portion of the Town Hall is a two-story structure of hand made bricks laid in a common bond pattern, with stone, cement and wood trim. The building is dominated by a three-story corner bell tower, which projects slightly from the rest of the building and is defined by brick corner quoins. At the base of the tower, the main entrance with paneled door, fanlight transom, keystoned round arch surrounding the fanlight, and round arched Moravian hood, provides the strongest visual tie with Salem's architectural heritage. (An identical doorway leading directly to the stairs is found on the north side of the building, just behind the bell tower.) The largest windows
in the building — eight-over-eight sash with four-light transoms — punctuate the walls of the tower at first and second story levels. The third story, which housed the bell throughout the years of public ownership, is open, with brick corner posts connected by a wooden balustrade and headed by a full classical entablature with dentilled cornice and overhanging modillioned eaves. A pyramidal tile roof with finial caps the tower.

The primary elevations (west and north sides) of the Town Hall are relatively simple, with rhythmic rows of eight-over-eight sash windows and a concrete band running directly below the second story windows. The huge, round arched doors on the (west) are replacements of the originals of the same type, which had earlier been converted to more conventional garage-type roll doors. These round arches with keystones are like the other exterior doors and echo the Moravian-inspired round arched door hoods. The west and north elevations are crowned by low, hipped, roof-like parapets with widely overhanging bracketed eaves, hiding a flat roof behind. The roofline is accented by a series of narrow chimneys providing something of a crenellated appearance. The low roofline, overhanging bracketed eaves, crenellated effect and corner tower with corner quoins and classical details suggest an Italianate influence, and more specifically, the influence of Italian
Renaissance palazzos.

The south side and rear of the building are plain, with eight-over-eight sash windows with segmental arched heads. The ground level slopes upward from the front of the building to the rear, so that the first story rooms at the rear are partially below ground level. An added, enclosed overhead frame passage (not a part of the nominated property) connects the Town Hall building to the 1958 former fire station behind it which faces Main Street.

On the south side of the Town Hall is a brick shed addition. Plans for a shed were mentioned at the time the original contract was awarded in 1912, and one may have been built when the main part of the building was erected. A shed was definitely present by 1917 when it is shown on the Sanborn Insurance Map for that year. Originally, however, the shed was frame, and more specifically, of latticework. It housed the "honey wagon" which went around Salem collecting "night soil" from the privies. The shed was bricked in ca. 1943, when it was used to house the town's iron lung and other expensive equipment during the polio epidemic. A sliding wooden door has replaced, as a part of the current renovation, the previous garage-type roll door. The shed portion of the building has a roof which slopes from north to south, and which at the rear of the building is only a few feet above ground.
level. The interior of the shed is a large, open space with six heavy support posts down the center of the room. An open mechanical well is located along the north wall toward the rear of the space, and in the northeast corner are two small enclosed rooms.

The interior of the original portion of the building has changed little through the years. On the first story several rooms are aligned along the north side. At the base of the tower is a vestibule. Directly behind is the stair hall containing the main stairway. Behind the stair hall are rooms which served as the lockup area for the town jail. The southern two-thirds of the first story is comprised of the large open space which was used for housing the fire trucks. On the second story an L-shaped hallway leads to the various rooms. The major room of the second story is the former courtroom on the north side of the building, measuring approximately 21 x 44 feet. Across the front of the building are four office rooms, and along the south side are several rooms of a slightly larger size, that have been used for a variety of purposes. The interior detailing is simple to the point of being austere. The angular closed string stairway has square newels and a moulded handrail, while the paneled doors are surrounded by plain casings and headed by transoms. (See attached floor plans).
The former Salem Town Hall is now being rehabilitated for office and commercial use. Edwin E. Bouldin, Jr., is the architect for the project, and great care is being taken to preserve the architectural integrity of the building, by making as few changes — other than restorative — as possible.
FOOTNOTES

1 Robert W. Neilson, comp., "History of Government, City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, The All-American City, 1776 - Bicentennial - 1966," (Unpublished report prepared for the Government Committee of the 200th Anniversary Committee, City of Winston-Salem, 1966), p. 305. Neilson reports that in a town meeting in June 1912, the Board of Commissioners authorized the Mayor to send out for bids, five sets of blue prints and specifications "with cement substituted for stonework, except door sills, and handmade brick instead of machine made and pressed brick; together with Blue Prints and specifications for shed." This appears to be the way the building was actually erected.

2 Ibid.
### 8. Significance

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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**Specific dates** 1912  **Builder/Architect** Willard C. Northup, Architect; Fogle Brothers  **Builder**
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salem Town Hall was Salem's last municipal building before consolidation with Winston in 1913, and is the last of Salem's town halls to remain standing. Designed by prominent local architect Willard C. Northup as an eclectic interpretation of Italianate and local Moravian architectural influences, and built by the prolific firm of Fogle Brothers, the 1912 Town Hall serves as an enduring expression of the local pride and confident development of Salem in the year before its consolidation with the city of Winston. After consolidation, it continued in use for over half a century as one of Winston-Salem's most important fire stations.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The former Salem Town Hall is associated with the development of the town of Salem during its final period as an individual town and with the evolution of the consolidated city of Winston-Salem.

B. The former Salem Town Hall is a distinctive example of early 20th century eclecticism, reflecting both the Italianate and local Moravian architectural influences. It is representative of the early work of prominent local architect Willard C. Northup, who individually or with his later partner, Leet O'Brien, designed many important buildings in
Winston-Salem and elsewhere in the state, including the Forsyth County Courthouse, Winston-Salem City Hall, City Market, Baptist Hospital, O'Hanlon Building, Twin City Sentinel Building, State Office Building and Department of Justice Building. The Town Hall is an example of the work of Fogle Brothers contracting firm, one of the two most prolific builders in Winston-Salem during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the former Salem Town Hall is closely associated with the evolution of Salem from an autonomous community to a part of the twin city, Winston-Salem.

Salem was founded by the Moravians in 1766 as the central congregation town in their Wachovia Tract of 100,000 acres. From its creation until 1856, Salem was a theocracy whose smooth functioning depended upon the willingness of individual Brethren to abide by the congregational rules and regulations. The Aeltestan Conferenz directed the moral and religious affairs of the community, while the Aufseher Collegium ruled Salem's economy by a system which revolved around the granting and removal of monopolies in businesses as well as leases on the land. While the congregation retained ownership of the land, the individual who leased the land held ownership to whatever improvements
he made to the property. The monopoly and lease systems distinguished Salem from the private enterprise system as practiced elsewhere in North Carolina.  

By the end of the 18th century, the development of Salem as a congregation town with firmly entrenched Moravian institutions was well established. Perpetuation of the theocracy was hardly questioned, since Salem's boards could expel any troublemaker by means of lease cancellation, monopoly revocation, and religious excommunication. Yet during this period, the church's authority was sustained by the willingness of Brethren to obey moral law and to contribute to the building of a religious community, rather than by threat.  

During the first half of the 19th century, however, a series of complex problems faced the church as increased exposure to outside influences began to affect the attitudes and rules of the congregation. Slowly but surely a drift from firm allegiance to the theocracy occurred. In 1845 the Moravian Church dropped German as its official language, and one-by-one a number of the theocratic institutions were abandoned, until only the lease system remained and it with insufficient tools for its maintenance. After growing protest, the lease system itself was abolished in 1856. In December of that year, Salem was incorporated as a North Carolina municipality by an Act of the General Assembly. After nearly a century, the theocracy had come to an end.
Meanwhile, Forsyth County had been carved from Stokes County in 1849, necessitating a new county seat. While Salem's industrialists and businessmen wanted, the county seat and the commerce it would draw as close to Salem as possible, church leaders wanted to protect the town from outside influences and moral temptations associated with secular county towns. The business lobby was strong, and while the county seat was not formed within Salem itself, 51 acres contiguous with Salem's northern boundary were sold to the county commissioners for the new county seat. After much debate, the new town was named Winston and was incorporated in 1859.⁸

Thereafter, the towns of Salem and Winston, so close geographically, carried on a competitive relationship which did not cease, at least officially, until consolidation took place in 1913. One difference between the two towns was political in nature. — Salem was Whig (Republican) while Winston was Democrat. Salem entrepreneurs attempted to make their town the industrial and business center of the county, and indeed, the town did develop in these areas throughout the remainder of the 19th century.⁹ With the end of political reconstruction in the 1870s, both Salem and Winston, like most towns throughout North Carolina, entered a period of expansionism, industrialism and architectural standardization that changed the face of urban North Carolina.¹⁰ And yet Salem could not keep apace with Winston, which soon was growing at
a phenomenal rate. While in 1860 Winston's population was only 100 to Salem's 450 (estimated), and in 1870 Winston was still only half the size of Salem (443 to 905), by 1880 Winston had surpassed Salem by 2,854 to 1,340. By 1890 Winston's population of 8,018 had far outstripped Salem's 2,711, and in 1910 the population stood at 17,167 for Winston and only 5,533 for Salem.\textsuperscript{11} As Winston grew, Salem continued to lose influence over its neighboring town.

In 1879, there was a move by some prominent citizens of both Winston and Salem for consolidation of the two towns. A major supporter was Salem mayor Rufus Patterson, and he became chairman of a consolidation committee. The state legislature ratified an Act of Consolidation and the matter was voted upon by the citizens of the two towns. While Salem voters approved the consolidation 138 to 18, Winston opposed it 329 to 120. The time was not yet right for such a move.\textsuperscript{12}

During the first decade of the 20th century, Salem continued its efforts at growth and civic improvement to try to hold its own with the burgeoning Winston. In 1910, the Southbound Railroad was completed between Wadesboro and Salem, a distance of 89 miles. This important event had the practical effect of putting the town on the main line instead of being on branch lines as it had been previously, and it gave Salem direct connection with all the large railroad systems of the state.\textsuperscript{13} In November of 1911, the Salem Commissioners voted to allow
the Southbound Railroad to expand into Salem, entering at the south end of the corporate limits and continuing along the Tar Branch past what is now Brookstown Avenue, with further permission to construct and maintain a depot at the approximate location of the corner of Liberty and Cemetery Streets. Work was to begin within six months and be completed on or before May 1, 1913. In his recollections of 1911, Dr. Edward Rondthaler, pastor of the Salem Congregation and a Moravian Bishop, commented that, "This will have the tendency of altering the future character of the town to a considerable extent from a residential standpoint." The franchise was supported by 526 taxpayers and 16 businesses in Salem who had signed a petition to that effect. It was a prime example of Salem's efforts to advance herself economically.

Just how badly Salem wanted the railroad line and its depot can be seen in the fact that the land where the new depot was to be built happened to be the location of the Salem Town Hall, on the west side of Liberty Street opposite Cemetery Street. Built ca. 1886, this Town Hall was a two story brick structure with stepped parapet gable end, segmental arched windows, a large segmental arched door for the fire engines, and an open belfry. The building housed town offices, fire station and jail. Having sacrificed their property and their Town Hall for the Southbound Railroad, the Salem Commissioners were then confronted with the problem of acquiring a new site and erecting a
On March 1, 1912, a Building Committee was formed to oversee the problem at hand. In addition to Mayor Fred A. Fogle, H.S. Crist and J.M. Brown served on the committee. Frederich A. Fogle was only 29 at the time. His father, Christian H. Fogle had been a partner in the firm of Fogle Brothers, a prominent local construction firm. F.A. Fogle himself was secretary of Fogle Brothers and was associated with other industrial concerns, including Fogle Furniture Company. Fogle's family had long been leaders in the Moravian community, and as Mayor, Fogle sought to maintain this tradition.

On May 6, 1912, the Salem Board of Commissioners purchased the lot on the southeast corner of South Liberty and Cemetery Streets, measuring 96 x 73 feet, from Susan Dettmar, widow of William Dettmar, for $2,100.00.

On July 10, 1912, Fogle Brothers Company, which had submitted the lowest bid, was selected as the contractor for the new Town Hall, to be built according to plans drawn by Willard C. Northup, for $10,194.00. The Commissioners also decided to dispense with Northup's services for supervision of the actual construction, and at the same time decided to substitute cement for stonework, except for door sills, and handmade brick instead of machine made and pressed brick.

Willard C. Northup (1882-1942) was a prominent local architect. Born in Hancock, Michigan, he was reared in Asheville, where he
graduated from high school. After attending Drexel Institute in Philadelphia for two years, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in architecture in 1906, and soon thereafter established an office in Winston. Northup was a charter member of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and at various times served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and President. He worked to establish architectural licensing in North Carolina, and when a licensing act was passed in 1915, he was among the first in the state to be formally licensed. Around 1920, Northup formed a joint practice with Leet O'Brien, and either alone or with O'Brien designed many of the prominent buildings in Winston-Salem and elsewhere in North Carolina. Among these were the Winston-Salem City Hall, the Forsyth County Courthouse, Baptist Hospital, City Market, Home Moravian Church addition, Twin City Sentinel Building, the O'Hanlon Building, over 100 schools in North Carolina, and in Raleigh, the State Office Building and the Department of Justice Building. The Northup and O'Brien firm evolved into the present Winston-Salem firm of Newman, Calloway, Johnson, Winfree and Associates, one of the four oldest architectural firms in the state. 

That Northup was chosen as the architect for the Salem Town Hall in 1912 was both a tribute to him and to the Board of Commissioners. His design was an eclectic combination of both Italianate and local Moravian architectural influences.
Fogle Brothers, the contracting firm for the building of the Town Hall, was among the two most prolific builders in Winston-Salem during the late 19th and early 20th century. Established in 1871 by Charles A. and Christian H. Fogle, the firm had a building contract department that operated until 1932. (Thereafter, Fogle Brothers continued to operate its lumber and building supply business.) Major construction jobs included the Arista Mills in Winston, Mayo Mills in Mayodan, and Washington Mills in Virginia. During one year (1890), Fogle Brothers erected forty-five homes, a livery stable, three stores, two tobacco factories, a church, a county jail, and Park Hall at Salem Academy. Apparently, the facts that Mayor Fogle was the son of Christian H. Fogle and that he, himself, was an officer of the Fogle Brothers firm, did not seem to Salem residents to constitute a conflict of interest in connection with the building of the Town Hall.

The Salem Town Hall was completed in late 1912. On November 14, 1912, the *Union Republican* reported that,

> The new Municipal building in Salem is about ready for occupancy. It is attractive in appearance and very conveniently arranged. The only regret is that it could not have been located on Main Street, the recognized central and only thoroughfare North and South.

On November 21, the newspaper reported that the fire department and the town clerk had moved into the building. On December 5th, the
paper commented that "The Salem Commissioners should have a house
warming or open house, now that they are domiciled in their handsome
new city hall." Apparently there were no plans for an opening
celebration.

The first regular monthly session of the Salem Commissioners to
meet in the new Town Hall was held on December 6, 1912. While it
seems rather curious that Salem would build such a substantial town
hall within six months of the consolidation of Winston and Salem,
the business of that first meeting in the new building suggests other
reasoning at work. According to a newspaper account the following day,

One of the most important steps yet taken by
the present Board of Commissioners of the town
of Salem, was made last night, when Commissioner
H.H. Vance introduced a motion to write a new
charter for the town....This action...is occasioned
by the inadequacy of the present charter, which they
claim does not cover all the ground necessary to
the proper government of the town. The move has
been under consideration for some time....Until
the meeting last night, however, no definite steps
towards making a new charter had been taken by
the board.30

The proposed charter was to be presented to the Board of Commissioners
at their next meeting in January, and after the Board approved it, it
was to be presented to the state legislature.31 The fact that the
Board was to consider a new town charter for Salem, strongly suggests
that at least some of Salem's leaders were not seriously considering
consolidation with Winston. Instead, the proposed new charter and the new Town Hall seem to reflect a sense of pride in Salem and a positive attitude about Salem's future as a separate town.

And yet, the move toward consolidation was gaining momentum in both towns. Prominent citizens in both Winston and Salem extolled the merits of officially uniting into a single city — a city and a town that were already so close in many respects. On January 27, 1913, the North Carolina General Assembly passed an Act providing for the consolidation of Winston and Salem. On March 18, the official vote was taken, with both towns approving the proposal — Salem 385 to 224, and Winston 800 to 260. From the vote it was obvious that Salem residents were not as convinced of the merits of consolidation as were the citizens of Winston. On May 6, Winston mayor Oscar B. Eaton was elected the first mayor of Winston-Salem. Former Salem mayor Fred A. Fogle and H. F. Shaffner were elected the aldermen representing the new ward of Salem, one of four wards in the newly consolidated city of 26,000 residents. Consolidation became effective on May 9, 1913, although a new city charter was not obtained until 1915. According to Dr. Rondthaler, "The conditions [of consolidation] were liberal on both sides, and have been carried out with admirable cooperation and good-will. The good effect is already seen in many directions..."
After consolidation, Winston's City Hall, which had been built in 1892 at the corner of Fourth and Main, became the joint municipal building until the present City Hall was erected in 1926. Salem's Town Hall did not stand idle, however. It continued to be used as a fire station until the mid 1970s. Known originally as the Rough and Ready Fire Company (which had been organized ca. 1868), the station became known soon after consolidation as Station No. 2. At the time of consolidation, the fire department was still a volunteer organization, but gradually the department began to employ men full time until 1919 when all the firemen were paid (except for those at a small hose and reel company in West Salem which was disbanded six years later).  

For years the No. 2 station served as one of the primary fire stations in Winston-Salem. At times the station served a broader purpose than being a fire fighting center. During the polio epidemic of the mid 1940s, an iron lung was donated to the city and was housed as a mobile unit in the shed of the fire station, from which it could be transported to wherever it was needed in the city. It was at this time that the shed, which had previously been of latticework construction, was bricked in.  

In 1958, a new fire station was built directly behind the former Town Hall, facing Main Street. The two buildings — old and new — then worked together as a complex. The old station housed quarters
for the fire chief as well as a mechanics station for the trucks and a storage area. Around 1977 a new station was built on Marshall Street, combining stations 1 and 2. For awhile thereafter, the old station on Liberty Street continued to house the mechanics shop, until a new one was built elsewhere.\textsuperscript{36}

In 1980 the City of Winston-Salem sold the former Salem Town Hall to GLYK and Associates, developers, and after a series of transfers, the building is now owned and is being sympathetically rehabilitated for office and commercial use by the 1909 Partnership.\textsuperscript{37}
FOOTNOTES


2 Ibid., p. 12.

3 Ibid., p. 16.


5 Taylor, *From Frontier to Factory*, p. 29.


7 Tise, *From Frontier to Factory*, p. 29.


10 Taylor, *From Frontier to Factory*, p. 35.


22 Minutes of the Salem Board of Commissioners, June 26 & July 10, 1912, (on microfilm in the North Carolina Room of the Main Branch, Forsyth Public Library, Winston-Salem).


25 The 1909 date on the cornerstone is incorrect. According to former Fire Chief Paul Crim, that date was inscribed by stonemason Edgar Bennett ca. 1950. Bennett had stopped by the fire station shortly before Easter on his way to the Moravian cemetery to do some work on the tombstones. While talking with the firemen who were sitting in front of the station, Bennett noticed that there was no date of construction carved on the cornerstone. He offered to cut a date into the stone, if the firemen would only tell him the correct date. Chief Brown replied that he thought it was 1909, so that was the date that was carved. (Interview with Chief Paul Crim, Winston-Salem, September 29, 1982.)
26 The Union Republican, (Winston-Salem), November 14, 1912, p. 6.
27 The Union Republican, November 21, 1912, p. 6.
28 The Union Republican, December 5, 1912, p. 8.
31 Ibid.
32 Tise, Government, p. 43.
33 Rondthaler, Memorabilia, p. 314.
35 Neilson, "History of Government," p. 833; Crim interview.
36 Crim interview.
37 Deed Book 1306, p. 714; Deed Book 1306, pp. 719-720; Deed Book 1352, pp. 598 and 600; Deed Book 1367, p. 999, Office of the Register of Deeds, Forsyth County Hall of Justice, Winston-Salem.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than one acre

Quadrange name: Winston-Salem East, N.C.

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Lot 101 of Block 64 of the Winston-Salem Tax Maps, as outlined in red on the accompanying tax map. It includes the Salem Town Hall building and the 73' x 96' lot on which it stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura A. W. Phillips (Consultant)

organization: 637 North Spring Street

date: 10/28/82

street & number: 637 North Spring Street

telephone: (919) 727-1968

city or town: Winston-Salem

state: North Carolina

code: 27101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   ___ national    ___ state     X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: William S. Price

date: February 7, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  

date

Chief of Registration
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Interview with Dr. Charlotte Brown, Raleigh, October 4, 1982.

Interview with Chief Paul Crim, Winston-Salem, September 29, 1982.


Minutes of the Salem Board of Commissioners, June 26 and July 10, 1912. On microfilm in the North Carolina Room of the Main Branch, Forsyth Public Library, Winston-Salem.


Union Republican. Winston-Salem, 1912.

Winston-Salem City Directory. 1908, 1910.

Winston-Salem Journal. 1912.
FORSYTH COUNTY TAX MAP
TOWNSHIP 14, BLOCK 64, LOT 101
Salem Town Hall
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Winston-Salem East, N.C.
Quadrangle Scale 1:24000
Less than one acre
UTM References: Zone 17
Easting: 568080
Northing: 3994190