NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Forsyth County Courthouse

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 11 West Third Street not for publication N/A

city or town Winston-Salem vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kevin Cherry
Signature of certifying official

3/5/2013
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

for Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
4-23-13

Forsyth County Courthouse
Name of Property

Forsyth, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	1	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
BEAUX ARTS

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
roof METAL
walls STONE
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Forsyth County Courthouse
Name of Property

Forsyth, North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

_X_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

____ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

(Enter categories from instructions)
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1926-1963

Significant Dates
1926
1960

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Northup & O'Brien - 1926 courthouse
Lashmit, James, Brown and Pollock -- 1959-60 additions

Areas of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

Forsyth County Courthouse
Name of Property

Forsyth, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.91

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	568016	3995121
2			
3			
4			

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Barrett, John Salmon, and Ashley Neville

organization Ashley Neville LLC date 8/8/2012

street & number 112 Thompson Street, Suite B-1 telephone 804-798-2124

city or town Ashland state VA zip code 23005

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Forsyth County

street & number 201 N. Chestnut Street telephone 336-703-2020

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended
(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Summary

The Forsyth County Courthouse is located at 11 West Third Street in the central business district of Winston-Salem and is surrounded by both historic and modern office buildings. Large trees stand on narrow strips of land on the eastern and western sides of the courthouse while the north and south sides abut the sidewalk. As it appears today, the courthouse is a substantial building that occupies an entire city block in the manner of grand public buildings. The courthouse, which reached its current appearance in 1960, incorporates the 1926 Beaux Arts courthouse designed by the architectural firm of Northup & O'Brien and interior elements of the 1896 Romanesque Revival–style courthouse. Standing three stories high on a raised basement and sheathed with limestone, the central core is the 1926 courthouse, which incorporated some of the walls and interior features of the 1896 courthouse. Between 1959 and 1960, additions were built onto the front and rear, creating its current form. The interior features elements of each of the three building campaigns that created the current building. The 1959--1960 additions include the front and rear stairs, an elevator, and additional office space. Also located on the grounds are three monuments: a statue of a Confederate soldier, a monument and flagpole dedicated to World War I soldiers, and the Good Samaritan monument.

Architectural Description

The Forsyth County Courthouse, the third on this site, stands on a flat, rectangular lot that fills a full city block in downtown Winston-Salem. The front of the building faces West Third Street, and the remaining sides are bounded by Liberty Street on the west, West Fourth Street on the north, and Main Street on the east. The Third and Fourth Street elevations stand immediately adjacent to the concrete city sidewalk; however, the Liberty and Main Street sides have narrow lawns with trees. Two large magnolia trees stand at the southeastern and southwestern corners of the building and street trees have been planted in the sidewalk on the Third Street side. Three monuments have been erected on the grounds. A statue of a Confederate soldier stands at the northwestern corner, a flagpole with a bronze plaque honoring the county's dead in World War I stands on the southwestern corner, and a Good Samaritan monument is located at the northeastern corner of the block.

The courthouse is a three-story building on a raised basement with two-story, nearly full-width rectangular additions at the north and south ends. Both the central core of the building, which dates to 1926, and the 1960 additions are sheathed with limestone blocks. The walls of the northern and southern additions are finished very differently from the east and west walls of the 1926 courthouse, which are still visible. Both additions are relatively plain when compared to the 1926 courthouse walls, which have a rusticated main level, sculptural panels between floors, recessed windows, and decorative roof balustrades. The additions have a molded stone

watertable between the basement and main floor and a flat stringcourse between the upper two floors. The third story of the 1926 courthouse is visible above the 1960 additions from some vantage points. A hipped standing-seam-metal roof caps the central portion of the building, while flat roofs shelter the additions. A single chimney projects above the roofline and is visible on the Fourth Street side of the building.

The larger southern addition is eight bays wide and five bays deep and wraps around the five-by-two-bay projecting façade of the 1926 courthouse, which is no longer visible. An aedicule composed of paired pilasters and a decorative entablature frame the main entrance on southern Third Street side. Recessed behind the aedicule is an aluminum-and-glass entrance composed of two single-leaf doors and fixed lights between the doors all topped with a panel of mosaic glass. At the entrance, the floor transitions from concrete to terrazzo.

On the eastern elevation, the 1960 additions abut the 1926 Northup & O'Brien courthouse, which forms the center section of this elevation. The seven-bays-wide 1926 courthouse has a projecting center section and features a rusticated first story while the basement and upper stories have smooth limestone walls. A molded stone watertable separates the basement from the first story and a corbelled stringcourse separates the first story from the upper stories. Bas-relief sculpture panels separate the windows vertically on the 1926 section. These panels feature a swag motif and a small roundel. Additional relief decoration is located at the base of the same windows and consists of a wave motif. The 1926 core and the 1960 additions both feature full entablatures. The 1926 portion features a dentilled cornice, while the cornice on the additions features decorated friezes with medallions.

The 1926 building has a roof balustrade alternating solid raised panels and plain receding sections running the perimeter of the building. At the center of each side, round moldings that once framed clocks punctuate the balustrade. The clocks have been removed, and these round frames are now empty.

The walls of the 1960 additions on the eastern side are sheathed with smooth limestone. While the molded watertable on the 1926 courthouse is repeated on the additions, the stringcourse on the additions is flat. There is a loading entrance on the east side of the northern addition. A concrete retaining wall stands just south of this entrance, and the ground in front of the doorway is paved.

The northern addition is nine bays wide and two bays deep. Like the southern addition, it is sheathed with smooth limestone blocks and has a watertable, stringcourse, and the same cornice

as the southern addition. A secondary entrance, similar to the main entrance on Third Street, is located on the northern Fourth Street side. The framing aedicule and aluminum-and-glass entrance have slight variations. The doors at this entrance are paired double-leaf doors topped by a mosaic-glass panel identical to that over the main entrance.

The central core of the western elevation, like its eastern counterpart, is the 1926 courthouse and has the same rustication, watertable, stringcourse, sculptural panels, and recessed windows as the eastern side. The 1926 courthouse has eight bays on the west side with a projecting center section. The northern and southern ends of the western elevation are the 1960 additions and each contains a single-leaf basement entrance door. Concrete stairs accompanied by a simple metal pipe railing provide access to these doors. Simple pipe railings enclose the wells for the basement windows on both sides of the building.

The 1926 Northup & O'Brien courthouse had multiple-light casement windows with multiple-light transoms set in recessed window bays, creating a pilaster effect. The additions have punched window openings. It is probable that the original windows were replaced when the additions were erected in 1960.[1] The building now has metal two-light casement windows with a single-light transom above and a single-light hopper window below on the first and second floors and two-light casement windows with a two-light transom on the basement and third floors.

Interior

The first floor is reached by stairs at the center of both the north and south entrances, which are contained within the 1959--1960 additions. A time capsule predating the additions is now buried beneath the southeastern corner of the stair in the southern addition. The stairs in the additions are reminiscent of the Streamline Moderne style that was popular from the 1930s through the 1950s, with dark terrazzo treads and sleek chrome railings. Paired, double-leaf, glass-and-aluminum doors open into the lobby of the building on the southern (Third Street) side of the building. The lobby is true to Northup & O'Brien designs for public buildings of the time when the 1926 courthouse was built, with marble floors with a black geometric design in the center, marble walls (up to the tops of the doors), an arched stairwell opening, blind arches in relief

[1] No plans or written records have been identified that definitively dates the replacement of the original windows with the current windows; however, photographs taken during this period are available on the Digital Forsyth website. A photograph dated 1959 shows the courthouse additions under construction with the original windows in the 1926 courthouse and a 1962 photograph showing the existing windows can be found on the web site. For the 1959 photograph see: http://www.digitalforsyth.org/photos/374. For the 1962 photograph see: http://www.digitalforsyth.org/jpg/uzz/mis/uzz_mis_04365.jpg

along the solid walls, substantial moldings around the doors, elaborate crown moldings, and decorative friezes with plaster swag motifs. Beyond the lobby is a wide central corridor connecting the two main stairs. The finishes of the lobby continue into the central corridor and include marble floor and walls, crown moldings, a picture rail and heavy beams across the corridor. A light well is situated near the center of the west side of the building, and extends from the first floor through the attic.

The 1896 courthouse was an exuberant Richardsonian Romanesque-style building that faced west and had a five-story central rectangular tower, an open entrance porch, and a three-story round tower on the southwestern corner. When the new courthouse was built in 1926, the brick foundation, some of the interior masonry walls, and the lower part of the tower of the 1896 courthouse were retained and incorporated into the 1926 courthouse.

Also retained in the 1926 courthouse was the iron stair of the 1896 courthouse. Located at the north end of the 1926 courthouse in a smaller corridor that originally connected the northern entrance with the wider central corridor, it is the crown jewel of the building. Rising three stories, it is composed of a combination of cast- and wrought-iron parts. Each piece is an exercise in texture and pattern. The risers are composed of cast-iron pieces perforated by a decorative interlaced pointed arch pattern. The treads are solid pieces imprinted with an inverted waffle pattern. The newels are composed of cast pieces with recessed panels that frame foliate patterns on each of the four sides. The top of each newel exhibits a series of moldings, reeding, and anthemions, all surmounted by a delicate iron sphere and beading. On the upper floors, the bottoms of the newels extend below the floor and are accented with spherical pendants. The railing is composed of intricate wrought-iron scrollwork topped by a molded wooden railing. At the landings, a second railing was attached to the top of the original at a later time to become code-compliant.

The stair of the 1926 courthouse is located near the south end of the building within the projecting front of the 1926 courthouse and wraps around the elevator as it rises. It is accessed via an arched opening in the lobby. A portion of the Northup & O'Brien designed railing is extant on the third floor. This design is composed of cast iron pieces forming a diamond pattern, crowned by upside-down flowers and swags.[2]

[2] "Detail of main stairs and entrance lobby," *Beaux Arts to Modernism*, NCSU Libraries' Digital Collections: Rare and Unique Materials, http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/mc00240-001-ff0543-001-001_0001, accessed 13 June 2012.

Suites of offices occupy the space to either side of the center corridor on the main floor. The offices consist of large rooms with many partitions forming smaller offices and counters to serve customers. Several arched openings connect spaces but some of the openings have been modified to allow them to be fitted with a standard door. Finishes in the 1926 courthouse include marble floors and plaster walls. The interior spaces of the 1960 additions are characterized by carpet and asbestos-tile flooring, gypsum wallboard and plywood walls, dropped acoustical tile ceilings, period sprinkler systems, and fluorescent lighting. Several bathrooms are located on this floor. Bathrooms within the 1926 portion of the building have marble floors and walls, pedestal sinks, and other period details. Bathrooms in the 1960 additions are tiled and have later utilitarian plumbing fixtures.

Two door openings on the first floor are particularly noteworthy. Located on the walls of the 1896 courthouse that are now part of offices on either side of the center corridor, these doorways are marked by Classical Revival--style metal or plaster aedicules. The aedicule on the east side of the building is composed of fluted pilasters with composite capitals, a broken pediment with scrolls, dentils, and egg and dart moldings, crowned by a mask. The aedicule on the west side of the building is composed of thinner fluted pilasters, composite capitals, dentils, a broken pediment, an eagle, and urn. The appearance and materials of these two doorways suggest that at one time they may have been entrances into vaults. Today, however, there are no vaults in this location and they provide access into open office space.

There is a vault, however. Having housed offices and departments that dealt with sensitive records and financial transactions, the courthouse contains a vault on the first floor located in the 1926 section. The walk-in vault on the west side of the building was used to store records.

The second floor is organized similarly to the first floor, with the stairs connected by a narrower central corridor. A reception desk and waiting area are situated at the center of the corridor. The reception desk is composed of stained wood appliqued with a diamond pattern. The two courtrooms are located on the second floor, with one courtroom on either side of the corridor.

The larger courtroom is located on the eastern (Main Street) side of the building near the center, and the interior space extends through both the second and third floors. Stained wooden paneling covers all walls to door-top height. Panels of acoustical tile cover the walls above the wood paneling. Picture rail caps the paneling and a handsome entablature and dentilled crown molding cap the walls. The doorways pierce the paneling, with a combination of broken pediments and door-surround entablature moldings extending above the paneling. The entablatures feature

reeding and swag motifs in keeping with other detailing within the building. The doors are a combination of single-leaf and double-leaf paneled and multiple-light doors.

The floors are tiled in a pattern showing the original organization of the room. Historic photographs confirm that the boxes formed by brown tile are the areas once occupied by the benches for public seating. The checkerboard pattern flooring indicates the aisles between the seating, the area for prosecution and defense tables, and the area for the jury box. Dropped acoustical tile ceilings were installed much later. At the same time, the chandeliers were replaced and the intricate iron ceiling medallions were covered with paneling. The original judge's bench is still extant within this courtroom.

The smaller courtroom is located along the western (Liberty Street) side of the building. Like the larger courtroom, it is also a two-story space and has similar details. This courtroom features the same stained wooden paneling extending partway up the wall, acoustical tile panels on the upper portions of the walls, elaborate crown molding, replacement light fixtures, single-leaf paneled doors, and checkerboard tiled flooring.

The remaining space on the second floor is subdivided into offices and bathrooms. The office walls in the 1926 section are characterized by chair railing, picture railing, a combination of carpeted and tiled floors, a combination of five-panel and single-light single-leaf doors (some with transoms), fluorescent lighting, dropped acoustical ceilings, and crown molding. The 1960 section is characterized by carpeted flooring, the absence of moldings, single-leaf hollow-core doors, fluorescent lighting, and dropped acoustical tile ceilings. The bathrooms follow the same pattern as those on the first floor, with the older bathrooms having marble finishes and newer bathrooms being tiled.

The third floor, which is wholly contained in the 1926 courthouse, is composed of a roughly C-shaped plan with stairs at either end, a corridor connecting the stairs, and offices in the remaining space. Enclosed attic stairs also rise from the central corridor. The spaces are characterized by a combination of carpeted and tiled floors, plastered and paneled walls, dropped acoustical tile and gypsum wallboard ceilings, chair railing, picture railing, crown molding, a combination of single-leaf paneled and double-leaf doors with transoms, and fluorescent lighting.

The attic is organized as open space with few divisions, and is currently occupied by mechanical equipment. Exposed roof rafters, exposed masonry, and exposed joists characterize the attic. It also functions as additional storage space. Part of the 1896 courthouse is visible in the attic. The original tower was truncated when the 1926 building enveloped the 1896 courthouse; however,

the tower walls are exposed within the attic, and the brickwork and rock-faced stonework of the tower are still extant.

The basement consists of three distinct sections. The central core is composed of the remnants of the 1896 courthouse. The space is organized with rooms to either side of a central corridor that features brick barrel--vaulted ceilings, five-course American bond brick walls, and segmental arched openings composed of two and three rows of headers. Many of the segmental-arched openings have been infilled. Surrounding the 1896 section are the rooms of the 1926 courthouse basement, and these rooms are at a lower grade. These spaces are characterized by chair railing, picture railing, and a combination of five-panel and single-light doors with transoms. To the north and south ends of the 1926 section, stairwells and other rooms occupy the 1960 additions. These spaces are devoid of the moldings present in the 1926 section of the building.

One of the most notable spaces in the basement is a small jail cell located near the northeastern corner of the 1926 section. Not far from the cell, the cornerstone plaque of the 1896 courthouse is still exposed within the northeastern corner. The remainder of the basement is characterized by concrete and carpeted flooring, a combination of masonry and gypsum wallboard walls, exposed mechanical equipment, a combination of masonry and dropped acoustical tile ceilings, and fluorescent lighting.

After the courthouse ceased to be used for this purpose in 1974, it housed county offices until 2004 when a new county office building was erected. In the conversion of the courthouse into county offices, many of the historically open spaces were broken up. Individual offices and cubicles were created in both courtrooms, for example, with the insertion of half-height walls that have since been removed. Since 2004, the building has been vacant.

Objects

Confederate Soldier Monument, 1905 Contributing

This monument stands at the northwestern corner of the block and memorializes the Confederate dead from Forsyth County. Erected in 1905 by the James B. Gordon Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the monument faces northwest. The monument is executed in granite and consists of a sculpture of a man in a Confederate uniform with a rifle on a stone pedestal. The tall pedestal is composed of a rusticated stepped base, a smooth block with the words "Our Confederate Dead" in relief, and a short shaft with a smooth surface with an incised inscription with the date and organization that erected the statue. This is topped with a projecting

section with a medallion on each side. Above this the shaft tapers terminating in a base that holds the statue of the Confederate soldier. The upper shaft has a bas relief shield on the front.

World War I Monument and Flagpole, 1921 Contributing

A monument and flagpole dedicated to Forsyth County servicemen killed in World War I was erected in 1921 on the southwestern corner of the block by the Women's Club of Winston-Salem and the Clyde Bolling Post No. 55, American Legion. A bronze plague with information associated with the monument is affixed to the granite base of the flagpole.

Good Samaritan Monument, 2007 Noncontributing

At the northeastern corner, a granite slab is inscribed with a commendation of the Good Samaritans of Forsyth County on one side and a bronze bas-relief plaque showing a Good Samaritan on the other side. It was erected in 2007 by the Evergreen Garden Club.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Forsyth County Courthouse is a three-story limestone-sheathed building located in downtown Winston-Salem, the county seat of Forsyth County. Completed in 1926 and expanded on the north and south facades in 1959–1960, it is the third courthouse to stand on the site, the courthouse square, since the county's creation in 1849. Northup & O'Brien, a prominent Winston-Salem architectural firm known for its public buildings, designed the 1926 courthouse—the only one that the firm ever designed. Their successor firm, Lashmit, James, Brown and Pollock designed the 1959–1960 additions. Since the colonial period, North Carolina's counties have served as the base of political power and law; the county courthouse, therefore, is the single most significant governmental building in each of the state's one hundred counties. The Forsyth County Courthouse meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the important functions of county administration as the local seat of government and center of law. Besides the usual court functions, including courtrooms, judge's chambers, and records storage, the courthouse also contained offices for a few county government agencies. The building retains a good deal of integrity despite minor interior alterations in 1974 to create additional county government offices. The period of significance extends from the completion of the courthouse in 1926 to 1963 reflecting the long period of its role in local government and law. The building's associations during the past fifty years is not of exceptional significance.

Historical Background and the County Government System

North Carolina's counties have functioned as the basic unit of government since the colonial period, and the county courthouse has been the physical embodiment of local government and the rule of law. In 1663, King Charles II of England granted territory including present-day North Carolina to eight lords proprietors, who created courts that were responsible for the judicial and governmental functions in precincts throughout the colony. The courts met in private dwellings until 1722, when the colonial assembly authorized justices to purchase an acre of land and construct a courthouse. In 1738, the assembly passed an act creating counties from the precincts; the courts thereby became county courts.[3]

County court justices held the most power over the functions of local government, including the construction and maintenance of public buildings such as courthouses and jails, until 1868, when a new state constitution was approved and established a new plan for county government. The County Commissioner Plan transferred most of the justices' powers and duties to an elected

[3] Mary Ann Lee and Joe Mobley, "North Carolina Courthouses, Thematic Nomination," 1978, State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

board of county commissioners, which then assumed responsibility for public buildings and roads.[4]

The earliest courthouses were small log or frame buildings that contained a courtroom, a jury room, a few offices, and the jail if it was not in a separate building. Other buildings near the courthouse typically included the county court clerk's office and the sheriff's office. As the population grew and local administrative responsibilities increased in number, larger courthouses were constructed to accommodate additional offices and to provide storage for the growing volume of county records. To protect the records from destruction by fire, masonry courthouses replaced the early log and frame buildings.[5]

The North Carolina General Assembly created Forsyth County from Stokes County on January 16, 1849. The new county was named for Col. Benjamin Forsyth, a Stokes County resident who was killed in action during the War of 1812. Because the town of Salem already was located approximately in the middle of Forsyth County, it became the focus of interest for the county seat. The Salem Congregation agreed to sell 51.25 acres to the county for a courthouse tract, and the deed was signed on May 12, 1849. That same day, the tract was divided into seventy-one lots (excluding a lot reserved for the courthouse), and the first of two sales of lots took place; the second occurred on June 22. Soon, the courthouse town of Winston was under construction.[6]

Local entrepreneur and mill owner Francis Fries designed the first courthouse; court sessions were held in the Salem Concert Hall until the new building was constructed in 1850–1851. Fries's Greek Revival courthouse had an "academic, two-story Doric portico stretching across the [south] gable end of the building."[7] This building endured until Frank P. Milburn (1868–1926) designed the second Forsyth County courthouse, which L. P. Hazen and Company constructed in 1896 at a cost of $55,000. The new building, which was oriented to face west toward Liberty Street, was "a virtually perfect example of all that Henry Hobson Richardson's Romanesque architecture represented."[8] It also marked the maturation, as some saw it, of Winston and Salem as an urban center with sophisticated architecture. Others thought the new

[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Adelaide L. Fries, Mary C. Wiley, Douglas L. Rights, Harvey Dinkins, Charles N. Siewers, and Flora A. Lee, *Forsyth: A County on the March* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 9–11, 17, 20, 25, 59.
[7] Larry E. Tise, *Winston-Salem in History, Vol. 9: Building and Architecture* (Winston-Salem, N.C.: Historic Winston, 1976), 31.
[8] Ibid.

courthouse looked like a "Russian cathedral."[9] The differences of opinion probably served Milburn's purposes for publicity: "he advanced his career through a combination of aggressive self-promotion, specialization in public and commercial buildings, and innovative business practices."[10] He ultimately designed, in North Carolina alone, "thirteen courthouses, six railroad stations, thirteen buildings at the University of North Carolina, and at least fifteen large commercial buildings."[11]

Milburn's ornate confection took ten months to construct after the old courthouse was demolished in February 1896 and the court square was leveled. County services were moved to nearby buildings temporarily. The new courthouse was largely completed before the end of November and county officials began moving furnishings into the building. In January 1897, the move was finished, the public was invited to come in and "look around,"[12] and the new facility was opened.[13]

By 1919, the 1896 courthouse was showing its age and space limitations, and the construction of a new courthouse was publicly debated. As an alternative to a new building on the same site, consideration was given to selling the courthouse square and constructing a combination courthouse and jail—as had recently been done in Raleigh—"in a quieter section of the city."[14] The next year, however, the plan was abandoned in favor of the existing site. A grand jury had been called to consider alternatives, and it suggested an enormous new building for the square: a ten- or twelve-story structure that would occupy the entire block and house county offices, the jail, courtrooms, the city hall, a public auditorium, and retail stores on the first-floor level. In addition, many of the offices in the building would be leased and the income applied to retiring the debt incurred by the construction. The city newspaper endorsed the ambitious plan (which ultimately came to naught) and editorialized: "The present courthouse [is] a small and wholly inadequate building for the business it is intended for. . . . All of its little offices are crowded to overflowing. The basement has been utilized for office space to the nth degree. No man in his

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[9] *Twin City Sentinel*, January 15, 1977.

[10] North Carolina State University Libraries, North Carolina Architects and Builders Web site, http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000085, accessed June 2, 2012.

[11] Ibid.

[12] *Twin City Sentinel*, December 1, 1971.

[13] See Digital Forsyth Web site, www.digitalforsyth.org, for photographs of the front and rear of the first courthouse, the demolition of the first courthouse, and the cleared site showing partial foundations for the 1896 courthouse; *Twin City Sentinel*, December 1, 1971, and January 15, 1977.

[14] *Winston-Salem Journal*, July 31, 1919.

right mind can spend one hour in the Forsyth county courthouse . . . without being convinced that the grand jury knew what it was talking about."[15]

In 1923, the North Carolina legislature passed an act to encourage the construction of new and improved courthouses. The act authorized county commissioners "to issue bonds or notes for the purpose of borrowing money with which to erect, build, construct, alter, and repair and improve courthouses and jails, and to purchase the necessary equipment and furniture to be used therein."[16] The act was effective in stimulating new courthouse construction; almost half of North Carolina's counties have built or altered their courthouses since the 1920s.

By 1925, the continuing growth of Forsyth County had caused the courthouse to become even more overcrowded and in need of additional office space than it had been six years earlier. The county board of commissioners decided not only to construct a new courthouse but also to incorporate the foundations of the old one and as much of the building's fabric and other materials as could be salvaged, in order to reduce the cost. In March 1926, Forsyth County sold $520,000 worth of bonds for school buildings and the courthouse, with $250,000 to be applied to school construction and the remainder to the courthouse. According to a newspaper article published on March 5,

> Contract prices for the construction of the [courthouse] building itself, will approximate $257,000. Other contracts include heating and ventilating at approximately $30,000, plumbing estimated at $10,000, and flooring approximately $10,000. It has been estimated that the equipment will cost from $25,000 to $40,000 basing this estimate on the cost of equipment in other large courthouses such as Guilford and Wilson Counties.
>
> When Forsyth County's courthouse [is] completed and equipped as provided by the commissioners, Forsyth County will have a courthouse second to none in the State.[17]

The commissioners subsequently engaged the architectural firm of Northup & O'Brien to design the new courthouse. On August 4, 1926, the Forsyth County board of commissioners approved the plans for the new building and stated that construction bids would be considered starting September 15. An article in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* described the plans in detail:

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[15] *Winston-Salem Journal*, October 10, 1920.
[16] Clay Griffith, Graham County Courthouse, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007, NCSHPO, Raleigh, N.C.
[17] *Winston-Salem Journal*, March 5, 1926.

> The plans for the new courthouse include additions and alterations to the present [1896] building. When the plans for the [new] building were first drawn, the architects presented a statement to the commissioners, showing that such changes as are contemplated and approved officially could be made with a much less expenditure than the cost of a new building. The plans, as now drawn and approved, will take care of the various county departments for about twenty-five years to come.
>
> When completed, the building will be exceptionally attractive. It will be of typical classical design, of limestone appearance, the entire exterior being remodeled. The enlargement will be made by extending the building twenty-seven feet on the east side and twenty-seven feet on the west, this providing for additional space on all floors, and affording the necessary quarters for the different departments.
>
> Wiley and Wilson, engineers of Lynchburg, Va., will be consultant engineers in regard to the heating and ventilation of the new building.
>
> The windows in the courtrooms will be double, and will not have to be raised for ventilation. The courtrooms will be noiseless, and the acoustics of the courtrooms will be of the best of any courthouse in the county [*sic*], according to a guarantee of the Johns-Manville Company. The temperature in the courtrooms, in the summer time, [will be] from 8 to 12 degrees lower than on the outside of the building.
>
> The building itself, according to the plans approved this morning, will have three stories and a basement, the basement to be used for office space for the various departments, and for the keeping of records of the county departments.
>
> Quarters for the County Board of Health will be provided in the new section on the east side of the ground floor.[18]

Northup & O'Brien's plans for the courthouse called for demolishing "most of the outside" of the 1896 building while keeping "a great deal of the interior"[19] intact—that is, the foundations and interior walls. Most of the interior finishes and details were replaced except for a cast-metal staircase near the northern side of the building; the facade was reoriented to the south (Third Street) side. In sharp contrast to Milburn's Richardsonian Romanesque style, Northup & O'Brien chose to design the new parts of the building—especially the exterior—in the Beaux Arts mode.

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[18] *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 5, 1926.

[19] *Twin City Sentinel*, October 4, 1962.

The chairman of the county board of commissioners, Ray Johnson, later claimed that the county saved about $100,000 by reusing the foundation, walls, and other materials from the 1896 courthouse: "If we had started from scratch, the courthouse would have cost $357,000. But it really cost us only $257,000."[20]

Willard Close Northup and Leet O'Brien began their architectural practice in Winston-Salem in 1916, and the firm became one of the most prolific in North Carolina in the first half of the twentieth century. Willard C. Northup (1882–1942), the firm's first principal, was born in Michigan but moved with his family to Asheville, North Carolina, where he graduated from high school in 1900. He studied architecture in Pennsylvania and then worked for established architects in Wilmington and Asheville, as well as in Oklahoma, before settling in Winston-Salem in 1906. The next year, Northup hired Leet A. O'Brien (1891–1963), a skilled young draftsman who had studied and worked in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two men became partners about 1915 or 1916, but both entered service in World War I and the firm was dissolved. In 1924, Northup and O'Brien resumed their partnership and both became leaders of the architectural profession in North Carolina, establishing local chapters of the American Institute of Architects. After Northup's death, O'Brien continued to run the firm, adding Luther Lashmit, who had worked for the firm since 1927, as a partner in 1945. After O'Brien retired in 1953, Lashmit reorganized the practice as Lashmit, James, Brown, and Pollock (for William R. James Jr., Mack D. Brown, and William W. Pollock). The firm eventually evolved into Calloway Johnson Moore and West in 1994 and is presently known by the initials CJMW.

The Northup & O'Brien firm designed buildings in a range of styles and with a variety of functions, and was well known for educational buildings, civic buildings and skyscrapers. The firm designed houses (some for vastly wealthy clients such as Bowman Gray and R. J. Reynolds Jr.), churches, schools, commercial buildings, skyscrapers, and public buildings such as the Justice Building in Raleigh and the Winston-Salem City Hall and Forsyth County Courthouse. They employed a variety of styles: Art Deco, Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, and Modernist. By the time the two founders had died or retired, "Northup & O'Brien's oeuvre was among the most extensive, varied, and distinguished in the state."[21]

The firm's Winston-Salem City Hall (1926) was designed in a Renaissance Revival style, complete with a rusticated basement, pilasters and a pediment. Other classical detailing appears

[20] *Twin City Sentinel*, December 1, 1971.
[21] North Carolina State University Libraries, North Carolina Architects and Builders Web site, http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000213, accessed June 2, 2012; *Winston-Salem Journal*, March 5, 1924.

in the building, which is built of red brick with neutral trim.[22] The Winston-Salem City Hall (National Register, 2001) is a close contemporary of the Forsyth County Courthouse, and is located only a few blocks from Courthouse Square. Several similarities between the two buildings are apparent. They both utilize stone arched openings at the main entrances although no longer visible on the courthouse. Additionally, both buildings include similar treatments in the main lobbies, with marble floors and walls, arches over the main stair, and so forth. Otherwise, however, the buildings are quite different, with the Forsyth County Courthouse veering strongly to the Beaux Arts tradition of grand white stone edifices.

The Northup & O'Brien design called for the large center tower, the corner turret and other portions of the 1896 courthouse to be removed. The remaining portions of the old courthouse were buried within new walls, and twenty-five foot extensions were added along the Liberty Street and Main Street sides of the building. The new design reoriented the building, with a grand stair and facade now along Third Street rather than facing Liberty Street as the 1890s courthouse had done.

The 1926 courthouse, like its predecessors, eventually proved too small for the county's needs. In particular, the offices of the sheriff, the court clerk, the register of deeds, and the tax collector were overcrowded and inadequate. By late in 1958, the commissioners again considered the costs of constructing a new building versus expanding the existing one. Because the commissioners "didn't feel the county had in hand or in sight the millions it would take for [a new building] . . . the alternative was the $725,000 expansion"[23] of the 1926 courthouse, which was completed early in May 1960. The design was devised by Northup & O'Brien's successor firm Lashmit, James, Brown, and Pollock with sensitivity to the original design. The expansions included a large box added at either end of the building along Third and Fourth Streets respectively. The additions were sheathed in stone to match the remainder of the building, and were designed with somewhat restrained detailing to match the original portion of the building. These details include an aedicule marking the entrance, framed by pilasters, a full entablature, stringcourses, and molded cornices.

The expansion added office space on three floors and in the basement, and as a result virtually filled the entire block. The commissioners held an open house in the new facility for the public

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[22] Heather Fearnbach, "Northup & O'Brien," *North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, Copyright & Digital Scholarship Center, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, NC. http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000213, accessed 13 June 2012.

[23] Ibid., May 3, 1960.

on May 4, 1960, and the *Twin City Sentinel* referred to the interior as "downright cheerful looking" with a "feeling of roominess."[24]

The "roominess" of the expanded courthouse was predicted to "take care of the county's needs for 15 to 20 years,"[25] but by 1967 the county and the courts had once again outgrown the facility. A restructuring of the state's court system required a new building, which was constructed a block south of the courthouse at Main and Second streets between 1971 and 1974 and called the Hall of Justice. In 1968, to adapt the old courthouse for the new court system in the meantime, a courtroom for the criminal division of the district court was constructed in the former quarters of the tax assessor in the courthouse basement (no trace of the courtroom remains today). When the new Hall of Justice was completed in 1974, the courts moved there. The interior of the old courthouse, including the courtrooms, was subdivided for county offices and used until 2004, when the building was closed.[26] The Winston-Salem architecture and engineering firm Newman, VanEtten, Winfree & Associates, designed the interior renovation. Newman, VanEtten, Winfree & Associates rose to prominence for such commissions as the Moyer M. Hauser Student Union Building at Winston-Salem State University (1972).

Throughout its history, the Forsyth County Courthouse housed not only courtrooms, judges' chambers, and jury rooms, but also numerous related county government offices, including those of the sheriff, the court clerk, the register of deeds, and the tax collector as mentioned earlier. In addition, other local government functions and offices were located in the building. The 1928 Winston-Salem city directory listed the following county offices and agencies in the courthouse: board of education, board of health, county commissioners, bookkeeper and purchasing agent, register of deeds, tax supervisor, tax collector, county and superior court clerks and judges, highway commissioners, school superintendent, health officer, farm demonstration agent, home demonstration agent, and public welfare department. In 1947–1948, the Forsyth County accountant, attorney, board of education, county commissioners, farm demonstration agent, health department, home demonstration agent, purchasing agent, and superintendent of public instruction, as well as the usual court and tax officials, had offices in the courthouse. The 1963 city directory listed the county accountant, attorney, board of education, buildings manager, county commissioners, data processing department, lawyers' library, county manager, register of deeds, sheriff, tax collector, tax supervisor, and veteran's service officer, in addition to the courts and clerks. Although some county agencies such as the health department and home economics

[24] Ibid..

[25] Ibid., July 5, 1968.

[26] Ibid., November 22, 1968; Hall of Justice History on The North Carolina Court System Web site, http://www.nccourts.org/County/Forsyth/Documents/hoj_history.pdf, accessed June 2, 2012.

agent had moved to offices in other buildings, those that remained expanded in response to a growing population and increasing demands for services.[27]

In 1978, a National Register thematic nomination for North Carolina courthouses omitted the Forsyth County Courthouse because the 1959–1960 additions were only eighteen years old then and were not considered historic.[28] The design, materials, size, scale, proportion, and massing of the fifty-two-year-old additions are sympathetic to and compatible with the 1926 courthouse. They are a record of the period in which they were built and do not adversely affect the overall governmental significance and integrity of the former Forsyth County Courthouse.

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[27] *Miller's Winston-Salem, N. Carolina City Directory, 1928* (Winston-Salem, N.C.: Ernest H. Miller, 1927), 52, 260; *Hill's Winston-Salem (Forsyth County, N.C.) City Directory, 1947–48* (Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1948), 270–271; *Hill's Winston-Salem (Forsyth County, N.C.) City Directory, 1963* (Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1963), 257–258.

[28] Lee and Mobley, North Carolina Courthouses.

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Winston-Salem Journal. July 31, 1919; October 10, 1920; March 5, 1924; March 5, 1926; October 4, 1962.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Forsyth County Courthouse occupies Forsyth County tax parcel PIN 6835-26-3972.00, Map No. 630854.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel of land on which the courthouse stands and is the land historically associated with the courthouse.

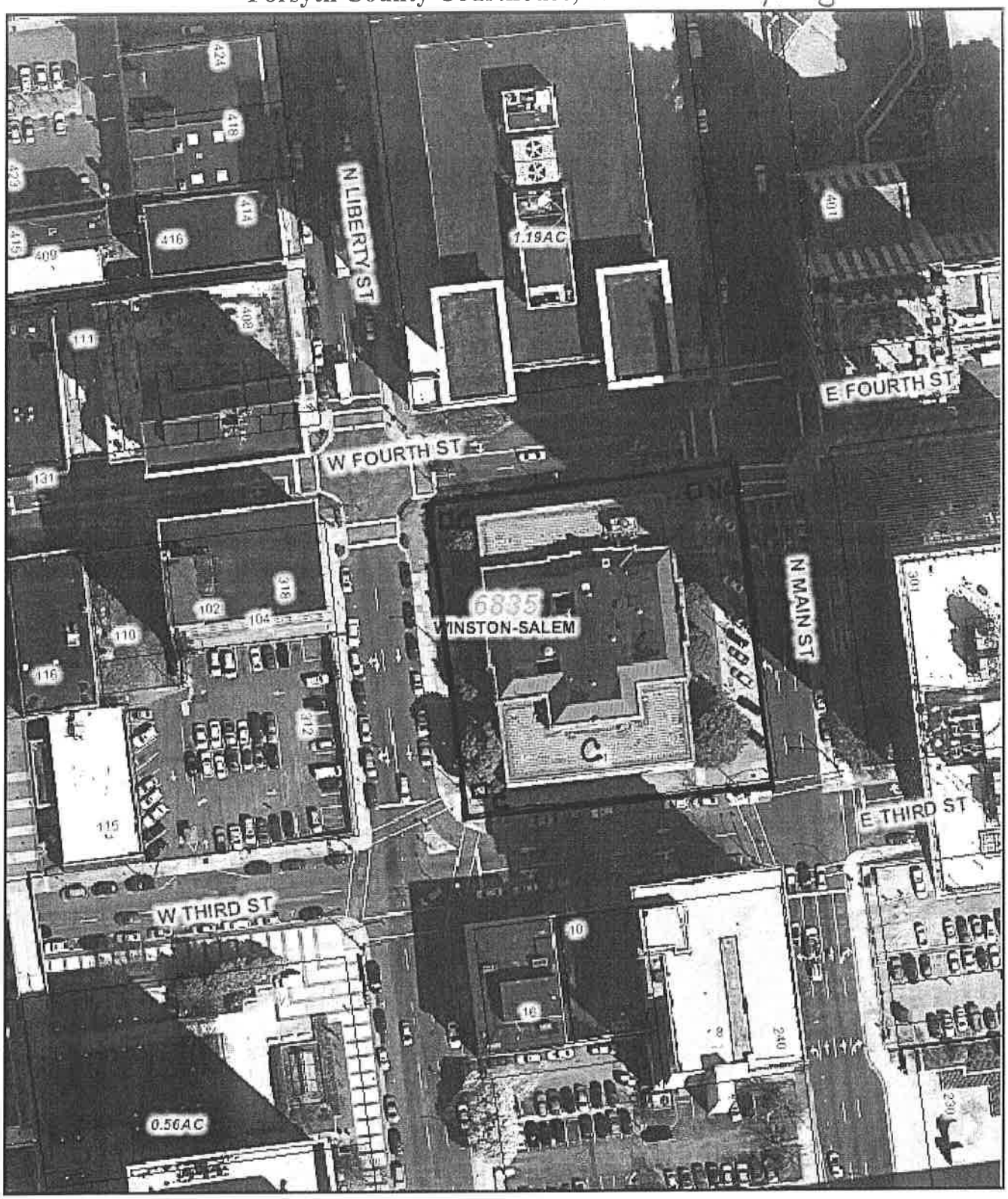
Photographs

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

Name of Property:	Forsyth County Courthouse
Location:	11 West Third Street Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101
County:	Forsyth County
Name of Photographer:	Ashley M. Neville
Location of Photographer:	Survey and Planning Branch North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources 109 East Jones Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Date of Photographs:	May 2012

1. Southern façade, 1960 addition, view to the northeast
2. Southern façade entrance, 1960 addition, view to the north
3. Eastern elevation, view to the northwest
4. Eastern elevation showing 1926 courthouse in center and 1960 wings on each end, view to the southeast
5. Northern elevation, 1960 addition, and Confederate Statue, view to the southeast
6. Northern elevation, view to the south
7. Foyer in 1926 courthouse, view to the east
8. Central corridor in 1926 courthouse, view to the south
9. Large courtroom, view to the north
10. Small courtroom, view to the south
11. Third floor corridor, view to the north
12. 1896 Courthouse stair, view to the north
13. 1926 Courthouse stair railing, view to the west
14. 1960 Courthouse addition stair, view to the northwest
15. Ornate doorway, first floor, view to the south
16. Confederate Monument (contributing object)
17. Flagpole and World War I Monument (contributing object)
18. Good Samaritan Monument (noncontributing object)

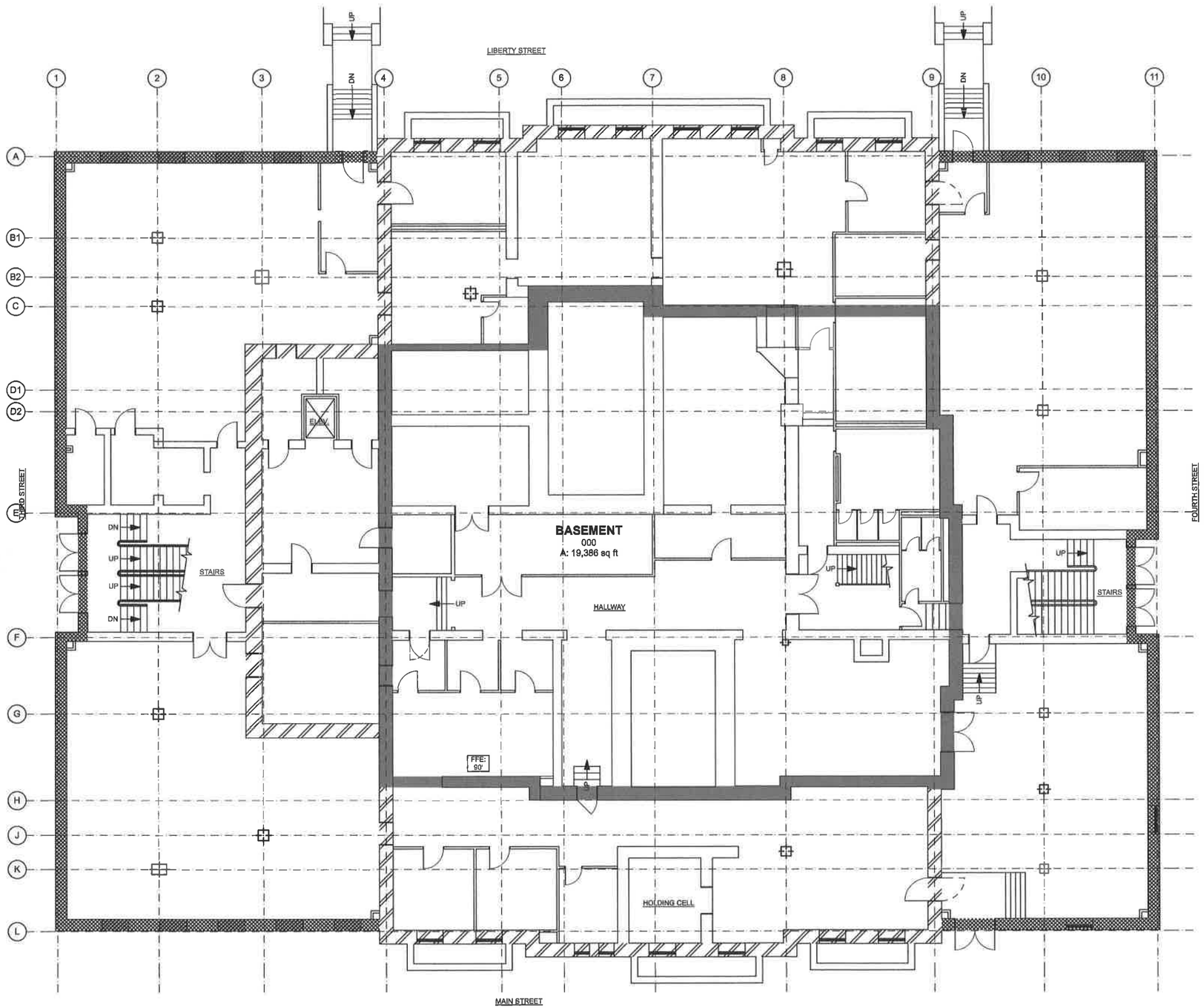
Forsyth County Courthouse, Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, N.C.



Disclaimer: Forsyth County cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information, and the County hereby disclaims all warranties, including warranties as to the accuracy of this information.

Map Scale
1 inch = 91 feet

—— National Register boundary - current tax parcel
C Contributing resource
NC Non-contributing resource



1 BASEMENT - EXISTING PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

LEGEND

- 1960 ADDITIONS
- 1926 COURTHOUSE
- 1896 COURTHOUSE

N

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
WALTER G. PARKS, JR.
Lic. No. 007483
ARCHITECT

FORSYTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

DHR SET
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS	
TAG	DATE

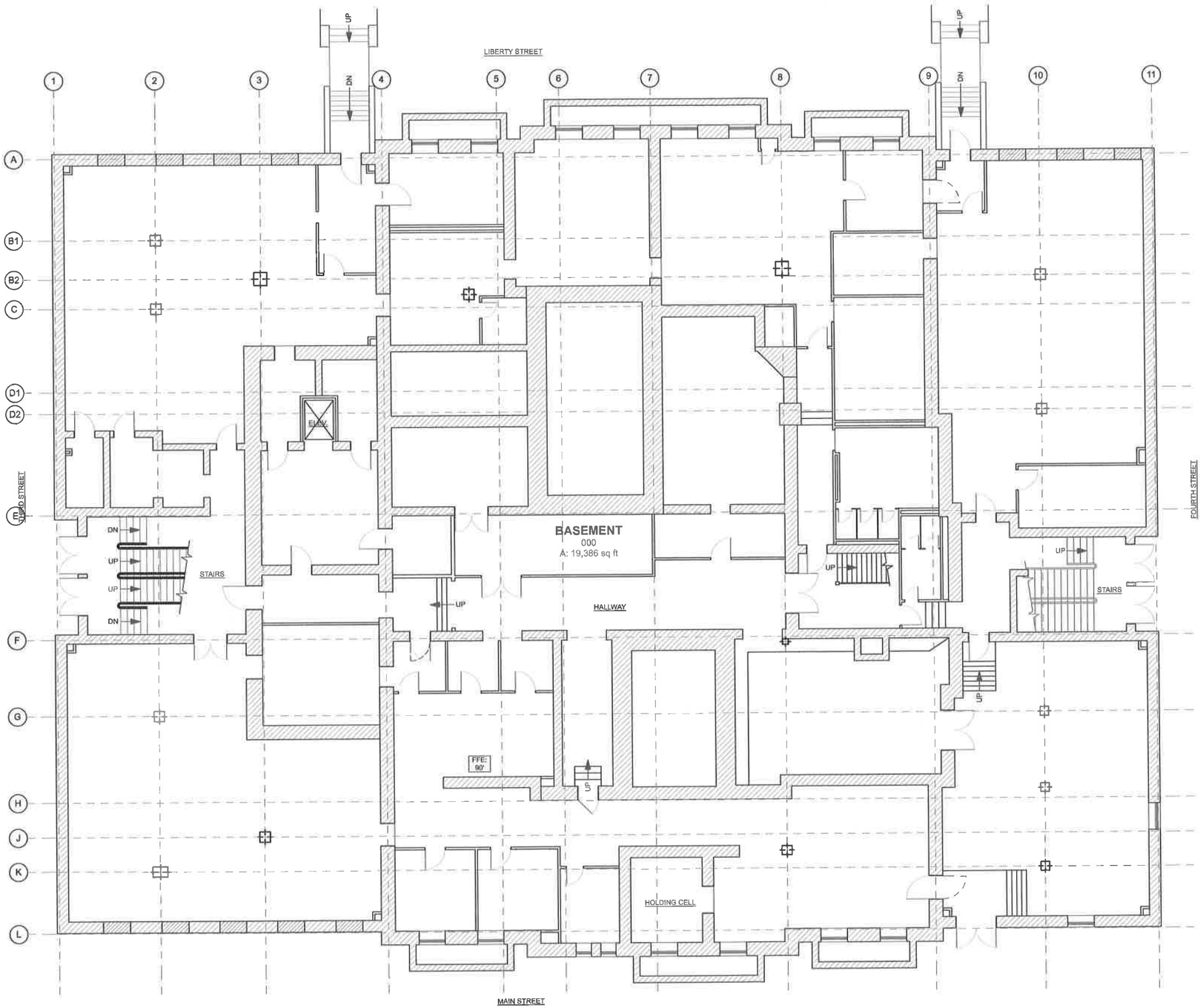
walter PARKS
ARCHITECT

313 N. ADAMS STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220
t: 644-4761 / f: 644-4763

PROJECT #: 12.22
DATE: 12/10/12

BASEMENT EXISTING PLAN

H.201



1 BASEMENT EXISTING PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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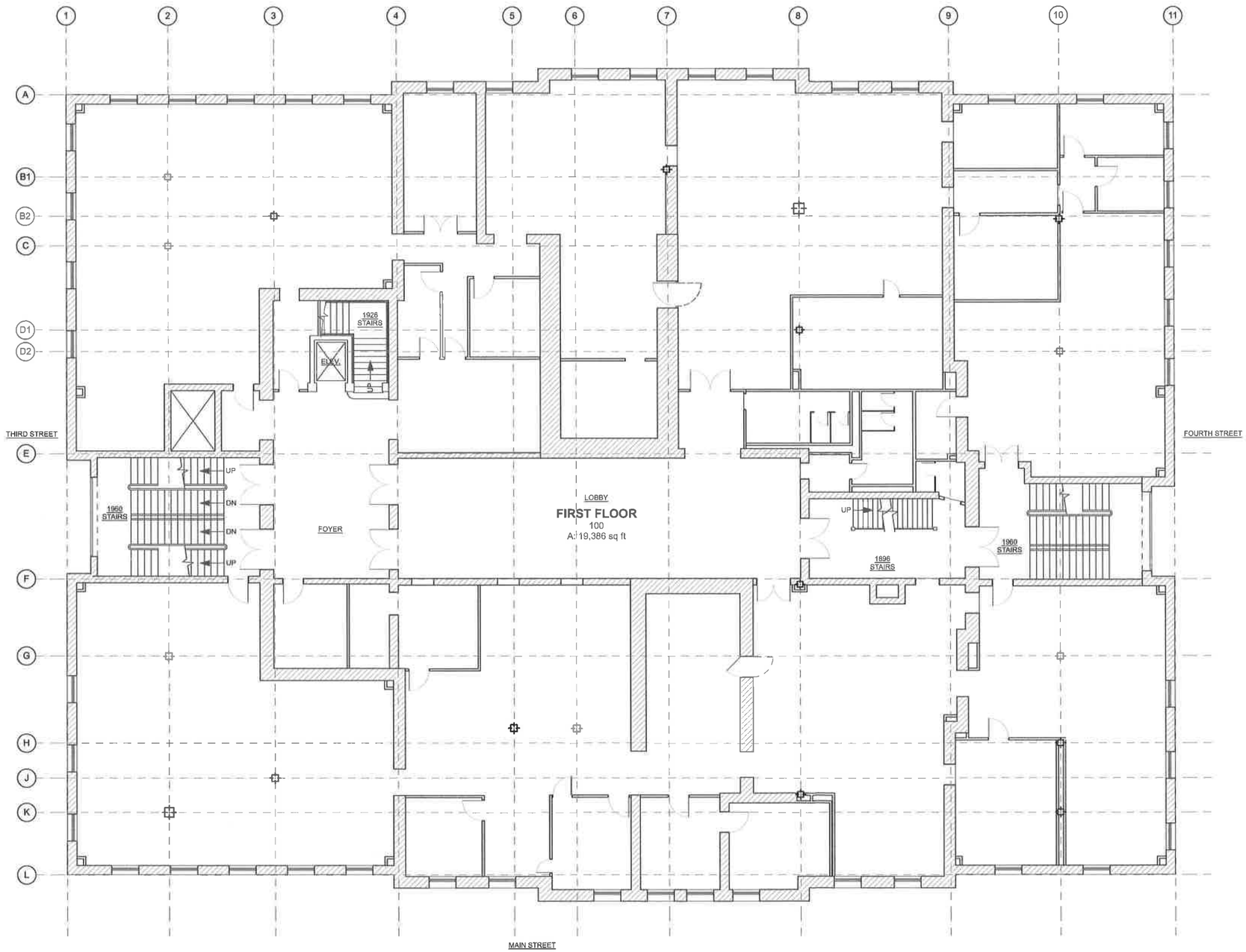

1 FIRST FLOOR EXISTING PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

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FIRST FLOOR
EXISTING PLAN
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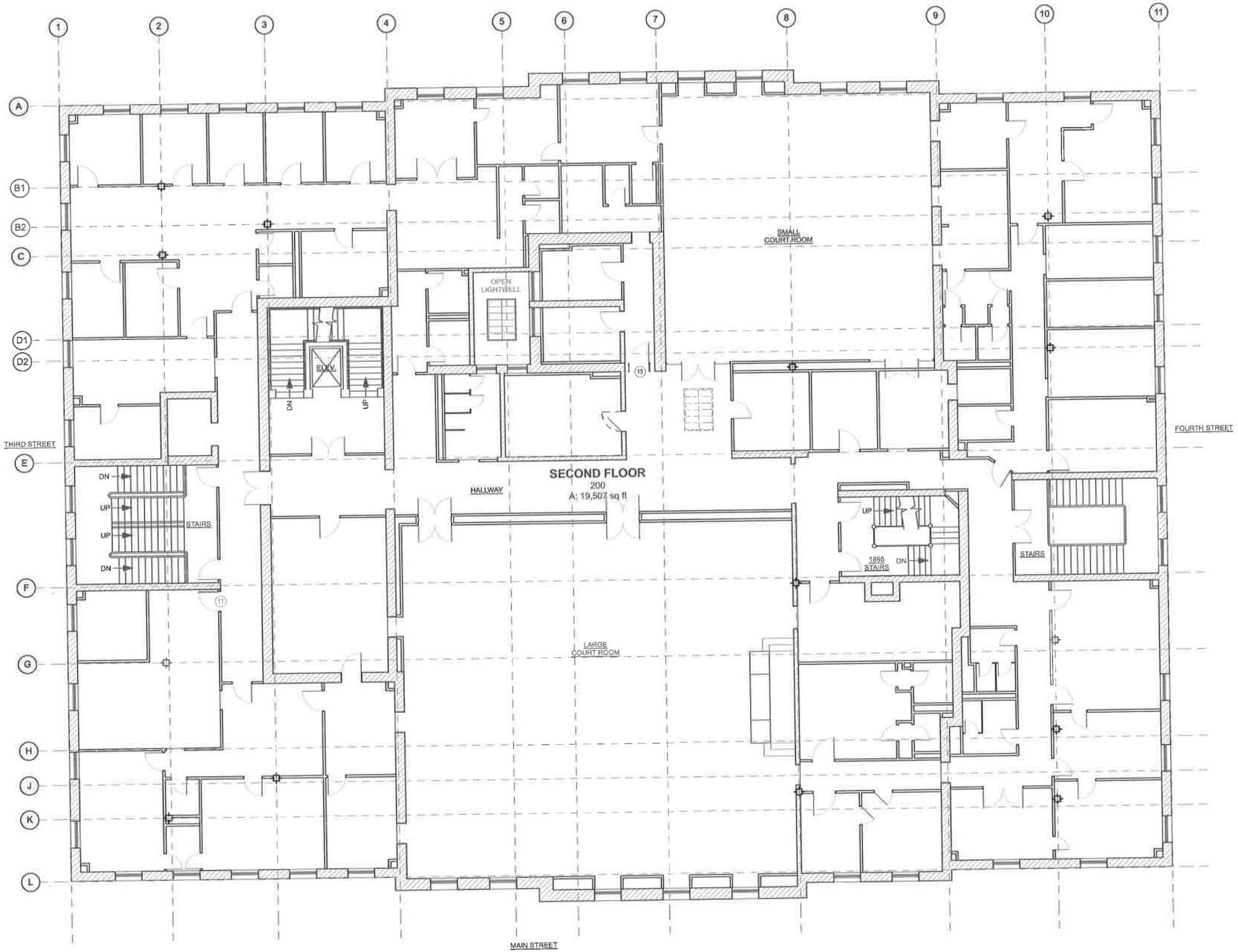

1 SECOND FLOOR EXISTING PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

N

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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

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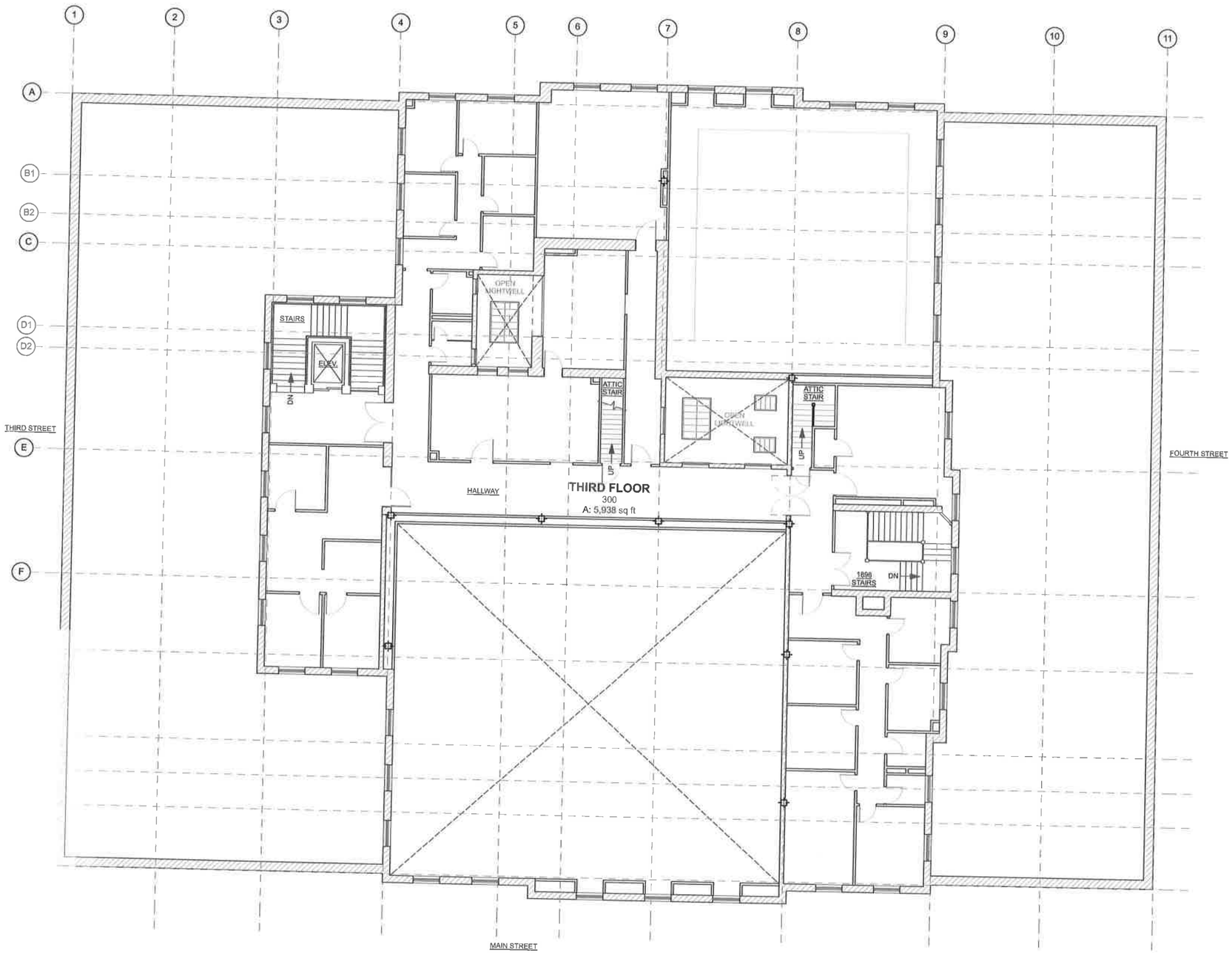
PROJECT #: 12.22
DATE: 12/10/12

SECOND FLOOR
EXISTING PLAN
H.203



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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

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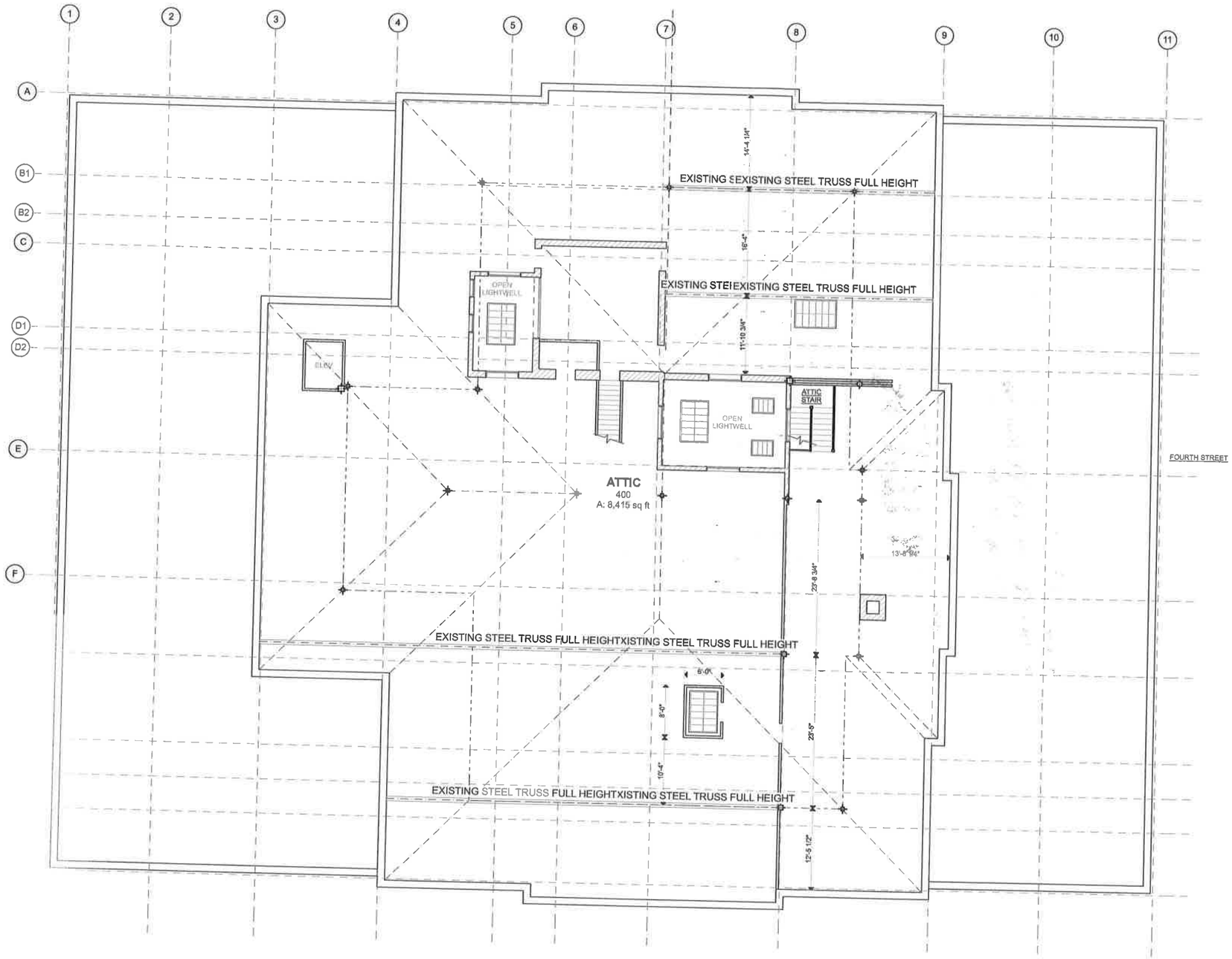
THIRD FLOOR
EXISTING PLAN

H.204



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FORSYTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

DHR SET
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS	
TAG	DATE

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ARCHITECT

313 N. ADAMS STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220
t: 644-4761 / f: 644-4763

PROJECT #: 12.22
DATE: 12/10/12

ATTIC EXISTING PLAN

H.205

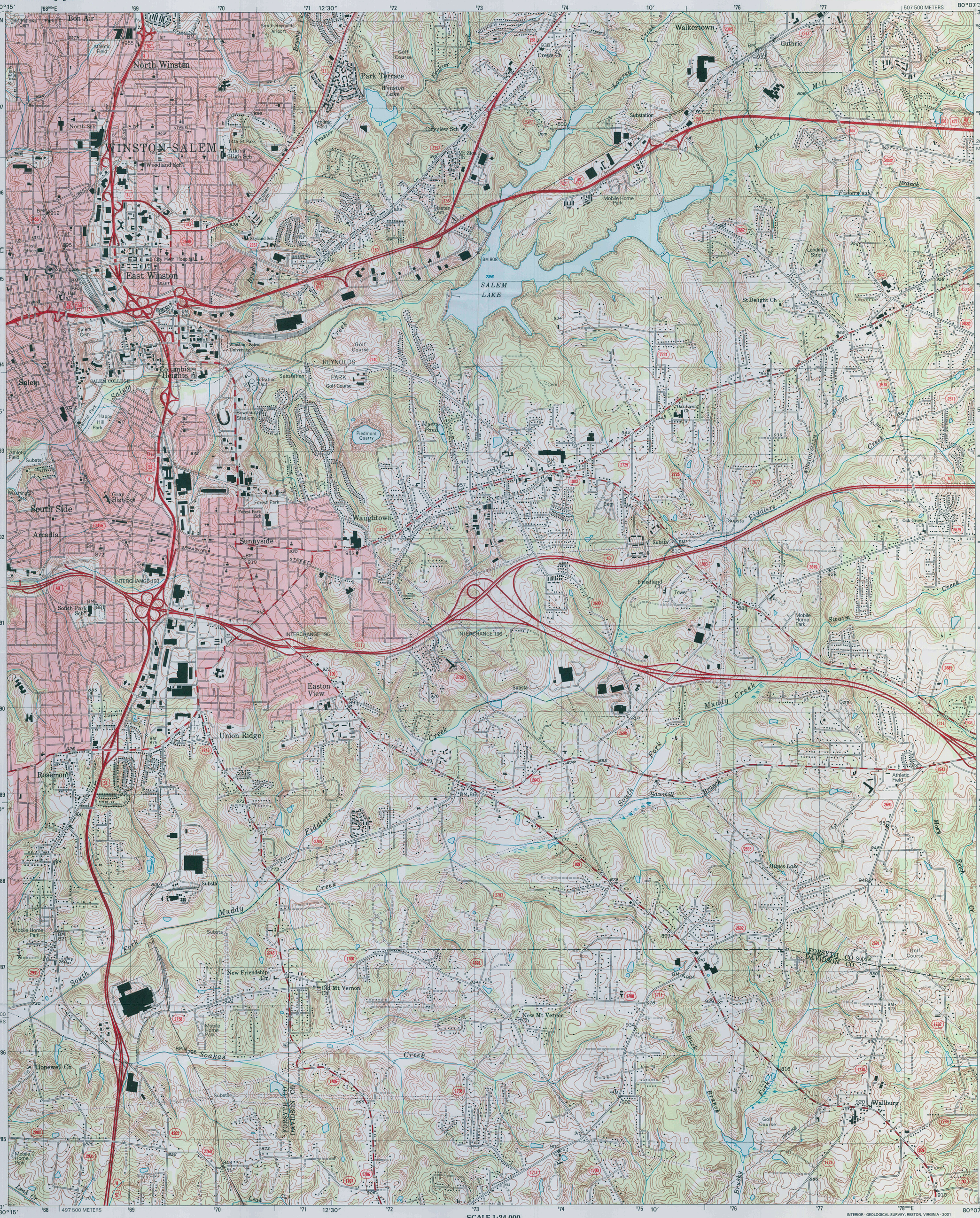
USGS
science for a changing world

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WINSTON-SALEM EAST QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Forsyth County Courthouse
Winston-Salem, NC
UTM Reference:
17/568016/3995121

Winston-Salem East
Quad



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CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

MN GN
7½°
133 MILS
0° 29′
9 MILS
UTM GRID AND 2001 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

NC
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Rural Hall
2 Walkertown
3 Belews Creek
4 Winston-Salem West
5 Kernersville
6 Welcome
7 Midway
8 High Point West

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 2001

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Topography compiled by planetable surveys 1949-1950
Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1997 and other sources
Survey control current as of 1950

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 17
10 000-foot ticks: North Carolina Coordinate System of 1983

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Landmark buildings verified 1950

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

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1997
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EXIT

OUR CONFEDERATE
DEAD

The Good Samaritan

FORSYTH COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
PARKING FOR
PROPERTY OF
FORSYTH COUNTY
ATTENTION

1 HOUR PARKING
8:00AM
TO
6:00PM

FORSYTH COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

EXIT
EXIT
NO SMOKING
NO FUMAR

EXIT