



TOWN HALL



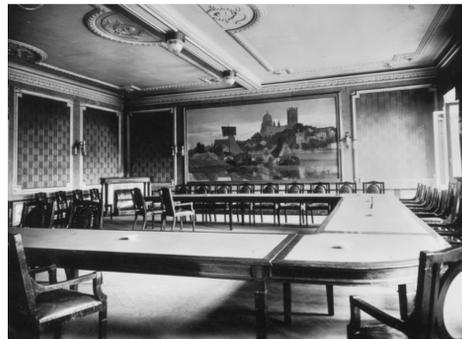
The **medieval Town Hall** stood at the junction of the Market and Krämerstrasse, next to the town's scriptorium with the first archive mentioned in 1242 (archivum publicum Nusie in domus communis). It fell during the Seneschal's War in 1586, like the Church of the Virgin located opposite on the Market, a victim of the city's Great Fire. In the years 1634 and 1638, a **new Town Hall** was erected in the Renaissance style at today's location - centuries later, it is a city landmark and a symbol of the city's independence and citizens' self confidence. Between 1789 and 1794, the historic building received a **classical façade** under city architect Caspar Hermkes.



Location of the Town Hall on the Market before the City Fire of 1586, excerpt from the bird's eye view by Braun and Hogenberg, 1590.



The old Town Hall with classical façade, right the city savings bank, which was demolished for the new Town Hall building, postcard around 1920



The Clarenbach Room, council chamber in the old Town Hall, in the background a painting by Neuss artist Max Clarenbach, 1904



Market and Town Hall before the establishment of a pedestrian precinct, around 1965

During the course of the city's economic boom, the increasing number of inhabitants and attendant increase in administration, the **Town Hall** had to be extended in 1909/10 with an administrative building in the direction of Michaelstrasse. On 31st December 1944, the old Town Hall and neighbouring buildings were completely destroyed in a bombing raid. Since 1974, the historic building has been remembered by a bronze plaque beneath the Town Hall arcades.

Today's Town Hall was inaugurated on 26th August 1954 after a four-year construction period. Two architectural competitions preceded the new building, however it was a design by architect Friedrich Fasbender, submitted outside competition, that was finally implemented. The new building complex on the Market was controversial, because it was significantly bigger than the old Town Hall. To construct the northern wing, the old city savings bank had to be demolished. The building of the arcade, which also incorporated the adjoining van Endert department store on the left, was intended to provide the impetus for a comprehensive construction of arcades along the shopping street, however this did not happen. Although the central building is only a few metres taller than the neighbouring buildings, due to the vertical arrangement of the façade and balcony, it is particularly accentuated. The roof turret with the Town Hall clock further emphasises the building's central axis. The city's coat of arms, in use since the 16th century, supported by two lions, have been located above the balcony since 1979.

Due to the growing administrative burden, the Town Hall was enlarged between 1989 and 1993 by a modern **building extension** between the Market and Michaelstrasse, for which buildings on the south side of the Town Hall were also demolished. The new representative council hall is also located here. A passage through the new building offers access to individual offices and creates a connection to Michaelstrasse and the administrative buildings there.

(Sources and texts: Neuss municipal archives)



Courtyard and neighbouring buildings of the old Town Hall seen from Michaelstrasse, around 1920



The ruins of the Town Hall destroyed during an air raid in 1944 as seen from the cathedral, with the city savings bank (right) and the Rud. van Endert department store (left), 1945.

