

# Kress Building

## 15-17 W. Church Street



Photo c. 2008

The Kress Building is one of the very few true Art Deco structures in Orlando. Edward F. Sibbert of New York and the official architect for the S.H. Kress Company, designed the Orlando Kress and more than fifty other Kress stores between 1929 and 1944. Established in 1896, the chain of S. H. Kress & Co. 5-10-25 Cent Stores were a familiar sight on "Main Streets" in hundreds of cities throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Though the chain closed in 1981, several former Kress stores are recognized as architectural landmarks and many are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several have been adapted to new uses. As one of Orlando's finest period structures, this 1936 Art Deco building features masonry over steel reinforced poured concrete with the primary façades veneered with glazed terra cotta and a granite base. The building is L-shaped with frontage on both S. Orange and W. Church Street. The Art Deco pilasters are capped with a polychromatic terra cotta capitals. The display windows are single sheet plate glass set in a 1950s ceramic tile surround while the upper windows are the original steel 4/4 double hung units.

ORLANDO HISTORIC LANDMARK(1978)