

Three later restored
in 353 bc and



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Three columns and part of the architrave (marble beam above the columns) of the temple are the only visible remains of a first century BC temple to Apollo that once stood in the Campus Martius. The earliest temple on this site was built in 431 BC by the Roman consul Gnaeus Iulius Mento, who built the temple in honor of Apollo Medicus (Latin for “Apollo the Healer”) after a severe plague in 433 BC. The temple was later restored in 353 BC and 179 BC. In 34 BC, the Roman consul and general Gaius Sosius began construction of a new temple to Apollo on this site after his military campaign in 37 BC, where he had attacked Jerusalem and installed Herod the Great as King of Judea. Construction of this new temple was delayed as civil war had broken out in Rome between the forces of Mark Anthony and Octavian (who would later become Emperor Augustus). After the forces of Mark Anthony were defeated, the construction of the temple continued and was completed sometime during the early reign of Augustus (emperor from 27 BC – 14 AD). According to the ancient Roman historian Livy, the Temple of Apollo Sosianus was filled with many paintings and sculptures from ancient Greece and was often used by the Senate for meetings.

The remaining three columns and part of the architrave (marble beam above the columns) of the temple date to the 36 BC reconstruction. They were discovered nearby and set up in their present location in 1940. The architrave contains reliefs of objects related to the god Apollo and temple sacrifice rituals. At the left side and right sides of the relief are depictions of an ox skull known as a bucranium which represents an ox killed in sacrifice. In between the ox skulls are laurel branches, symbols of the god Apollo, which hang between candelabra. This temple has been referred to by Roman

historians since the first century AD as the Temple of Apollo Sosianus in reference to Gaius Sosius, who began its last major construction.

The name also differentiates it from the Temple of Apollo Palatinus, which Emperor Augustus began building on Palatine Hill in 36 BC and completed in 28 BC.