



Dedication of Fire Station Number 20 The Koger Fire Station



Winston-Salem

October 29, 2009

Presentation of Colors

Winston-Salem Fire Department Honor Guards

Welcome

Mayor Allen Joines - City of Winston-Salem

Invocation

Ken West, Fire Investigator, Winston-Salem Fire Department

Remarks

Council Member Vivian H. Burke,
Mayor Pro Tempore; Chairman, Public Safety Committee; Northeast Ward

Council Member Nelson L. Malloy, Jr., North Ward

Patty Martin, Koger Family

Antony Farmer, Fire Chief, Winston-Salem Fire Department

Closing Remarks

Lee Garrity, City Manager, City of Winston-Salem

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Assembled Officials

At the conclusion of the ceremony, we invite you to tour
the newly dedicated Fire Station Number 20



Welcome to Winston-Salem Fire Station 20

The Koger Fire Station

Fire Station 20, named the Koger Fire Station, sits on land acquired from the Koger family and which had been held by the family since family patriarch and Patrick County native Madison Koger bought 48 acres to farm outside Bethania in the 1870s.

In subsequent years the family added to its holdings as the Koger property became a hub of commercial activity in the community. James M. "Bud" Koger, Madison Koger's son, operated a general store and café on this land, as well as a vegetable cannery, boarding house, fishing lake and mink farm. Before it was demolished, the cannery was used as a location in the 1990 movie, "Mr. Destiny."

Bud Koger's daughter, Thelma Koger Small, and her husband, the Rev. Moses Small, continued the entrepreneurial tradition with the Floridian Club, established in 1950 on the grounds around the fishing lake, to offer a venue for receptions, banquets and weekly entertainment. Later,

Thelma Small became proprietor of TES Boutique in downtown Winston-Salem.



Thelma Koger Small

The foundations for the Koger Fire Station rest on the site of the home of Thelma Koger Small. Her life, education, marriage, artistic, horticultural and community leader. Throughout her long career as a high school teacher, Mrs. Small found time to be a positive force in her community.

She organized and led the local chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, a national humanitarian, educational, and interracial organization established while Lady Bird Johnson served as First Lady. Mrs. Small also served as the president of the local chapter of the National Association of University Women, the national president of the Club of Lona Phi Lambda Sorority, chairman of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, and vice president of the N.C. Federation of Garden Clubs and the Tanglewood Arboretum Society.

Mrs. Small initiated the fund-drive to raise money for a statue of Dr. Simon Atkins on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, and she was a mentor to young people who went on to hold elective office in the city, including Alderman Larry D. Jarratt and Council Member Nelson Malloy.



Bethania Freedman's Community

The Koger Fire Station is situated in the heart of a historically significant community founded by African Americans who acquired land here after the Civil War.

These residents were freedmen and descendants of slaves held on plantations of substantial size established during the first half of the 19th century in the countryside surrounding Bethania. They along with slaves who worked in Bethania, comprised one of the largest slave populations in the region.

With the Civil War and emancipation, many of these freed slaves bought much of the surrounding land, which had been part of the Oak Grove plantation. In the years that followed, the families in the area, among them the Laskes, Comrads, Washingtons, Showers, Allens and Kogers, established a church, a school, stores, a cannery factory, farms and a fishing lake. Their community was centered on Bethania A.M.E. Zion Church, which organized in 1860. The church graveyard contains graves dating from 1847 to present.



Lady Bird Visits Women's Group

On Tuesday, March 15, 1961, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, accompanied by her daughter, Caroline, visited the Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. The group was held at the home of Mrs. Thelma Koger Small, 1111 North Elm Street. Mrs. Small, who has served as president of the local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women since 1958, presented Mrs. Kennedy with a copy of the book, "The Negro in America," published by the National Council of Negro Women. Mrs. Kennedy also presented Mrs. Small with a copy of the book, "The Negro in America," published by the National Council of Negro Women. Mrs. Small also presented Mrs. Kennedy with a copy of the book, "The Negro in America," published by the National Council of Negro Women.

