

# HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

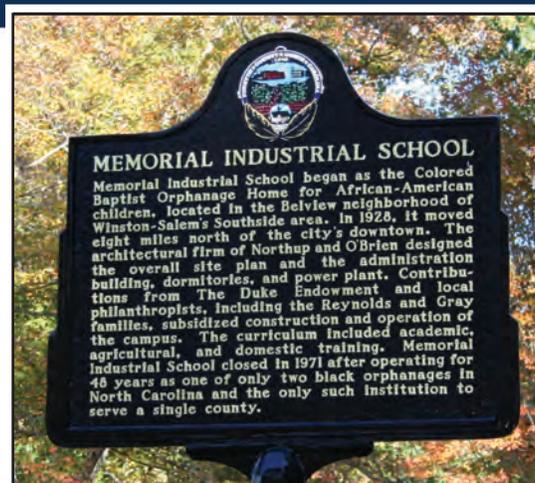
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Memorial Industrial School

Memorial Industrial School served as a place for African-American orphans to learn and grow in an environment that taught them how to become productive members of society. Originally known as the Colored Baptist Orphanage Home, which was located in Winston-Salem's Belview neighborhood, the complex relocated to the northern part of Forsyth County in 1928 and included a farm, dormitories, an administrative building, a power plant and other facilities.

The Colored Baptist Orphanage Home opened in the Belview community in 1906, serving homeless children in the area. Eventually, a group of Winston-Salem civic organizations agreed to take control of the orphanage and relocated it to rural Forsyth County, renaming it Memorial Industrial School.

Construction of Memorial Industrial School was made possible by contributions from the civic organizations responsible for its relocation, as well as from the Duke Foundation and the Reynolds and Gray families of Winston Salem. The Northup and O'Brien architectural firm developed plans for the complex, situated on 425 acres and standing as the only African-American orphanage in North Carolina serving a single county.



Children at the school received training in academic, agricultural and domestic skills. The campus farm not only produced many foods for the residents of Memorial Industrial School, but also for the citizens of Winston-Salem. An incentive program allowed exceptional students and workers to receive pay for their efforts, half of which would be saved for their "graduation" at age 18 and given to them as they set out to begin their new lives.

The school closed in 1971 after operating for 48 years. Today the site is the location of Horizons Park, and a portion of the property serves as Horizons Residential Care Center, which provides comprehensive services for persons with developmental disabilities.



Courtesy of Heather Fearnbach

