

# HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

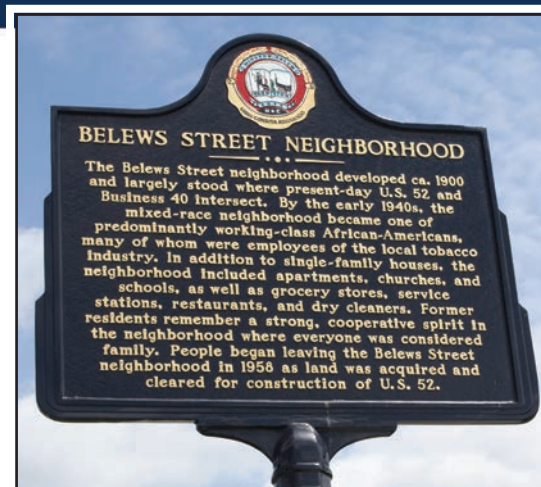
## Belews Street Neighborhood

The Belews Street Neighborhood, developed east of downtown Winston in the early 20th century, is remembered as a vibrant, friendly community. Commercial and residential property lined Belews Street and other nearby roads. The neighborhood sat at the intersection of highways U.S. 52 and Business 40.



After World War II, many cities experienced urban decline as the focus of development moved to the suburbs. The Housing Act of 1949 was enacted to provide funding to cities in order to address deteriorating properties by demolition, new construction and rehabilitation of housing. The

Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, which allowed funding to create highway systems, provided greater motivation for states to demolish what they deemed as declining neighborhoods to make way for new interstates and highways. By 1958, demolitions and clearance were underway in the



Belews Street Neighborhood to prepare for the construction of US 52 and Business 40.



Long-time Winston-Salem residents recall Belews Street as a community to be proud to call home and where families found support. The neighborhood consisted of a range of local businesses and institutions patronized by residents.

Local businesses included cleaners, restaurants, barber shops, stores, gas stations and funeral homes. Churches and schools could also be found within the community. Those who grew up in the area describe it as a neighborhood with a village mentality, where neighbors were not strangers. Most residents were employed at nearby tobacco warehouses or downtown businesses.



This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's web site: <http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>