Easton Neighborhood

Easton is a 57-acre post-World War II subdivision built in 1949 to ease Winston-Salem’s housing shortage. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, commonly known as the GI Bill of 1944, guaranteed low-interest home loans for veterans and promoted the construction of houses in new subdivisions and on vacant lots in existing neighborhoods nationwide. Easton consists of almost identical dwellings to ensure that the neighborhood met strict guidelines from the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration to qualify for government-subsidized mortgages.

Engineer Herbert Knapp platted 225 small lots on NC Highway 109’s west side beginning in May 1949. The small, minimal traditional-style homes built on these lots were approximately 750 square feet in size, and consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a living room. Homes in Easton initially sold for $6,000. Many of the homes still retain their original aluminum or asbestos siding.

In 1958, a sixteen-classroom elementary school was completed for the neighborhood. Easton Elementary School, designed by architects Stinson-Arey-Hall, was the first Winston-Salem school to integrate when Norma Corley and Roslyn and Kenneth Cooper enrolled on September 4, 1958. A 1997 addition to the school houses six additional classrooms.

In 1973, the Model Cities Program awarded the City of Winston-Salem a grant to complete Easton Park, a 27-acre public recreational area consisting of a playground, picnic shelter, basketball and tennis courts, and a softball field.

In 1988, concerned residents founded the Easton Neighborhood Association. The association renovated the community park, adding new playground equipment and updated landscaping, and instituted a Neighborhood Watch in 2012. The association envisioned the present and future Easton Neighborhood as a “turnaround community,” a diverse, active, intergenerational community with the intent to foster a pleasant and safe environment for all its residents.

This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission web site: www.ForsythCountyHRC.org