The East Winston branch of the Forsyth County Public Library was created to replace the first residential African-American library, named in memory of enslaved North Carolina poet, George Moses Horton. This library’s original location was in the Patterson Avenue YMCA from 1927 until 1931. The facility was then moved to a room in the Bruce Building at 216 East Sixth Street and despite expanding further into a second room in 1937, additional space was needed.

In 1953, to answer the need for additional space, three African-American physicians and their wives, Dr. H. Darius and Laney Malloy, Dr. H. Rembert and Elaine Malloy, and Dr. J. Charles and Beatrice Jordan offered to the City a site off East Seventh Street, opposite the Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital, for a new African-American branch library. Dr. H. Darius and Laney Malloy worked at the Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital and lived in the Skyland Terrace neighborhood. The benefactors recognized the local need for a larger community center, as well as a place for school-age children to do their schoolwork.

Architects North-up and O’Brien’s Modernist design for the new branch library was similar in character to their plans for the 1952 Central Library on West Fifth Street. Character-defining features for this brick Modernist design include a flat concrete entrance canopy sustained by a square concrete post and a cast-stone panel flanking the façade door and windows, as well as cast-stone surrounds.

The community celebrated the East Winston branch library’s dedication on November 14, 1954. Librarian of Congress and North Carolina native L. Quincy Mumford delivered the keynote address. In 1998, the branch was designated as the Forsyth County Library’s first Heritage Center. The East Winston library was renamed the Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center in 2004, in honor of the three doctors and their families who donated the land for the library.

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