

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Colored Baptist Orphanage Home

The Colored Baptist Orphanage Home was located in southeast Winston-Salem's Belview neighborhood. First platted in 1891, Belview appears to have been well developed by 1910, when it was first mentioned in the Winston-Salem City Directory as a "suburban settlement southwest of Southside." Belview became a place where both whites and African-Americans lived together in the early 1900s and this pattern extended into the 1940s and early 1950s. The southern part of the Belview, however, did become a center for African-American life with churches, schools, and black-owned businesses developing from the early 1900s through the 1920s.

The Colored Baptist Orphanage Home was a significant feature of the Belview neighborhood. Around 1903, a group of local citizens organized to raise funds to open an orphanage that would care for children with no families. The group was successful and the orphanage opened in 1905; it was the only African-American orphanage in North Carolina. The orphanage was first located in a farm house, but around 1919, it moved to a new building on East Clemmons Road. The boys' dormitory was



later built near the corner of Moravia and Burgandy Streets.

Eventually, the orphanage grew to encompass a 28-acre campus, and it maintained a farm and sponsored a band. When city civic clubs took over the operation of the orphanage in 1923, the name was changed to Memorial Industrial School. The orphanage had begun to deteriorate in the mid-1920s, and in 1924, fire destroyed the boys' dormitory. In 1928, W.N. Reynolds donated 425 acres for the construction of a new school campus north of Winston-Salem. The institution moved there in 1929 and the Belview campus was closed and demolished.



Historic Marker Unveiling Ceremony



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