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 Clemmonsville 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.

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