

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

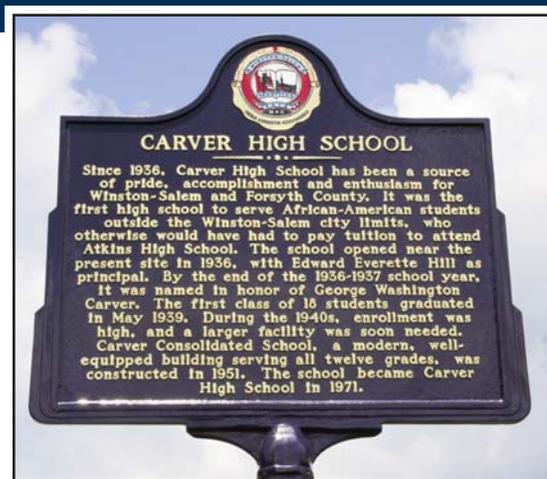
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

Carver High School

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, parents of African-American children living in Forsyth County demanded that a four-year high school be made available for students who lived outside of Winston-Salem. Atkins High School, which opened in 1931, only served city residents; county residents were required to pay tuition to attend there. As a result, the school system made a promise to build one high school for African-Americans in a central location if an enrollment of 60 pupils could be located and maintained.

In September 1936, over 90 high school students from all around the county began classes at the new Oak Grove School. The site, located near the Ogburn Station community, was selected because it was considered the most central area in the county. That facility was located at the corner of what is now Carver School Road and White Street. At first, only two wood-framed finished classrooms were ready for students, while four additional rooms were being constructed. There was also an old school on the premises that was used for classes until the new facility was complete. Edward E. Hill, who hailed from Winston-Salem and was a graduate of Howard University, served as the school's first principal. Because the enrollment goal had been reached, the State School Commission gave high school status to Oak Grove School the second week after its doors had opened. At that time, Principal Hill was given the authority to hire one high school teacher, Mr. Samuel Hamlin Jr.

It was suggested in 1937 by Forsyth County School Superintendent Thomas E. Cash that the school be named in honor of George Washington Carver, an African-American scientist at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. It was then the school name changed to Carver High School.



The first class of 18 students graduated from Carver High School on May 12, 1939, with six of those graduates attending college in the fall. During the 1940s, the school continued to grow and the curriculum was expanded, and included music in the form of a school band.

Because of the growth of Carver, plans were begun in the late 1940s to construct a new school; by 1951, the facility was constructed and formally dedicated at a location near the original site. Located on Carver School Road, then called Old Sides Mill Road, the state-of-the-art facility was constructed for 1.3 million dollars. It had 12 grades with an enrollment of 1,300 students. Called Carver Consolidated School, the facility became an example of excellence for the entire country. The United States State Department had photographs taken of the facility and distributed nationally as an example of achievement for African-American education.

In 1962, the City school system merged with the County school system, and Carver

Consolidated School no longer served just African-American families. Carver Consolidated School became a junior high school in 1969-1970 with grades seven through nine attending. In 1971, Carver Junior High School once again became Carver High School, which it remains to this day.





Carver High School, 1969
Courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection



Carver High School, 2012

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