

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

Goodbye Bickett Hall

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Staff Writer

No longer will Bickett Hall be filled with laughter, sadness and anger. The dormitory's doors have been permanently closed; but students who once lived there will cherish their memories from the dormitory.

If the walls could talk, we would probably hear stories about Bickett Hall's history that dates back to 1899. In 1899, the building was known as Slater Hospital. Slater Hospital was the first hospital for blacks in the cities of Winston and Salem. The hospital was the creation of S.G. Atkins and the Slater School.

In 1899, Atkins had the desire to establish a Hospital and Nurse Training Department at the school, which would provide experience and training for nursing students and nursing facilities for Black citizens.

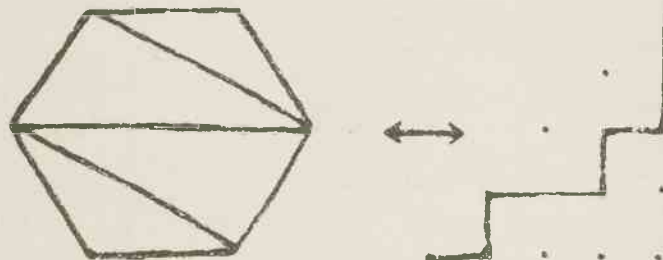
Through a lot of hard work and dedication, Atkins raised enough funds to purchase the 11 acres of land needed to construct the hospital. In May 11, 1901, the Board of Managers adopted the name, Slater Hospital and a formal opening of the new hospital was held on May 14, 1902.

According to the May 15, 1902 issue of the *Winston-Salem Journal*, "the new building has been erected at a cost approximating \$10,000 and is a feature of the institution in which its managers may well take pride."

Within the first year of operation, there were 75 regular and 15 emergency patients; 21 operations were performed and ten patients died. During the hospital's early years, Atkins faced continuous financial, administrative and operational difficulties. As a result of extreme problems with an inadequate water supply, the hospital had to be closed for 13 months until a pipe line from the Salem water supply could be laid and the water was turned on in the hospital.

During the 1921-1922 academic school year, the Slater School was transformed into a Boy's Dormitory and it was described in the 1921-22 Slater School catalog as "a handsome brick, concrete, and steel structure of colonial design." The original

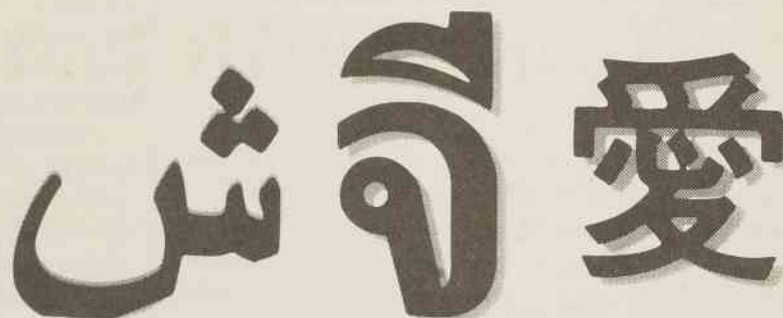
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