

THE STUBBLEFIELD HOME WAS LOCATED ON THIS HILL FROM 1904-1963

**A home for orphans and widows operated here from 1904-1931,
A residential agricultural project for youth operated here from 1939-1941,
A residential facility for homeless youth operated here from 1948-1963.**

In 1902, prominent Walla Walla pioneer Joseph Stubblefield died and left a will providing for the establishment and operation of a home for “fatherless or motherless and indigent children, and worthy elderly indigent widows.” For this purpose, the trustees he had appointed purchased the residence of W.W. Baker, son of pioneer Dorsey Baker and president of Baker-Boyer Bank. The large mansion located on this hill was designed and built by Baker in 1892, and the surrounding forty acres of grounds were landscaped by his nephew John Langdon, who lived with Baker and his wife.

On November 16, 1904, the Stubblefield Home for orphans and widows opened here and was rapidly filled. The facility was able to house twenty-five people in addition to a live-in superintendent and matron. The Home mostly accommodated children, with only three widows living here at any one time. The boys were taught to work as farmers and gardeners on the large acreage, while the girls learned household duties, including canning of fruits and vegetables for which they won awards at agricultural fairs.

After 27 years of service to orphans and widows, the Home was closed in 1931 due to financial reverses suffered by the Stubblefield Trust resulting from a drought and the Great Depression. In 1939, the Home and its grounds were made available to the federal government’s National Youth Administration for use as a residential agricultural project. The NYA was a New Deal agency established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that operated from 1935 to 1943, and provided work training for needy, unemployed youth ages 16 to 25. To assist the agricultural project, after the 1939 closure of the federal government’s Civilian Conservation Corps camp that had been established on Mill Creek Road, most of the CCC camp’s buildings were moved to the Stubblefield Home to assist the NYA’s efforts.

In 1948, the Home was reopened as a facility for homeless youth by the Stubblefield Trust and Children’s Home Society of Washington. CHSW’s operation of the Stubblefield Home continued until 1963, when a new facility was constructed by the Stubblefield Trust on land donated by Clarence Braden on Detour Road west of Walla Walla. The Trust and CHSW opened the new Blue Mountain Boys Ranch there the same year, which continued to operate until 1984, when it was closed due to rising costs. At the time of the move, the Stubblefield Home and its 40-acre grounds, half of which had been leased since 1950 as pasture for the adjoining Milky Way Dairy across Yellowhawk Creek, were sold for development, and the Home itself was demolished.



Sign placed by Walla Walla 2020 Historic Sites & Markers Project

More information on the Stubblefield Home and other historic sites in the Walla Walla area is available online at www.ww2020.net/historic-sites