

About Us

What lessons can be learned from African-American Muslims in Boston? Taking the time to reflect we learn that in the 1940's a small group of musicians came together to form the first Muslim community of Boston, under the leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. This call was not to orthodox Al-Islam, but a needed message to address the degradation of African-American minds of the time. All of us have benefited directly or indirectly from this journey into orthodox Al-Islam.

Meeting weekly in each other's homes Minister Lloyd Williams was elected to leadership. His home was a major meetinghouse to practice and propagate the message of the then Nation of Islam. The call to a clean and honorable life attracted those most in need of the message and membership grew rapidly. Soon the need for a larger place of worship was needed and the natural development to securing a storefront became a reality in the early 1950's.

Moving through different locations within the South End, Dorchester, and Roxbury communities the need to purchase property, for a place of worship, became the obvious solution. The location of a Jewish Synagogue was for sale and proved to be the ideal quest to continue as a place of worship. The negotiation for 35 & 37 Intervale Street set history in motion and ultimately formed a partnership between the Muslim and Jewish communities that exist today. We are forever thankful, appreciative and will continuously honor those Muslim individuals and families that sacrificed to establish the foundation of Al-Islam. Through contributions and using personal property as collateral the property was purchased in 1957 and 35 Intervale Street serves as our Temple (Masjid). We became the eleventh Temple established in the Nation of Islam and thus became designated as Temple #11.

37 Intervale Street became the living quarters of Minister Louis Farakhan, a famous musician himself, the elected leader of the Boston Muslim community.

Ultimately evolving from the Minister's quarters to a transition home the property has been the home for many struggling believers. Being able to offer assistance to members in need solidifies our foundation of service and has allowed Al-Islam to flourish in Boston.

Our community continued to transition, progress, and transform throughout the years. Malcolm X (Al-Hajji Malik Al-Shabazz), the Regional Minister of this area, considered Temple #11 his home and held it in very high esteem. The infamous play "Orgena" was produced here, causing an intense stir in the Nation of Islam. Discontinued by the order of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, pioneers still muse over the whereabouts of the tapes capturing their work of art.

Six Ministers and some thirty years later another transition was underway. The Boston community was hit hard by the excommunication and ultimate murder of Al-Hajji Malik Al-Shabazz. Split loyalties separated families and caused chaos that we still feel the ripples of today. The death of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad carved out the history of every Muslim in Boston. Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the chosen son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad,

was unanimously elected as the leader of the then Nation of Islam. The 1976 Saviors Day Parade marked this date in history for all African-American Muslims in the Nation Of Islam.

Immediately Imam Warith Deen Mohammed declared and put us on a course of orthodox Al-Islam. The uniqueness of his decision was not to follow the deficiencies of practice throughout the world, but to mandate that we learn and live the guidance given to us by Allah in the Holy Qur'an. Under the leadership of Imam Shakir Mahmoud, selected by Imam W.D. Mohammed, he walked us into the light of Al-Islam and renamed our place of worship Masjid Al-Quran (MAQ). As we shredded the labels and practices of the past to metamorphosis, other groups assimilated our history as a platform, our transition from the Nation of Islam to orthodox Al-Islam in Boston.

Forged from a history of Black Nationalism, Separatism and Reverse Psychology we have evolved into the MAS (Muslim American Society). With Boston being the home of some 70,000 Muslims, our roots and history here offers a unique perspective that is needed and must be heard to guide the future of Muslims that reside here. We are here to stay and prosper! The MAQ of Boston has purchased property at the corner of Intervale Street/ Blue Hill Avenue and submitted a RFP to the City of Boston for property on Blue Hill Avenue in an effort to establish a stronger economic foundation. With the changing demographics of Boston no longer can we just exist economically but must create a path to succeed. Under the leadership of Imam Taalib J. Mahdee our goal is to come into the forefront of history once again.