Riverside Orphan Asylum
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Introduction
The asylum was an idea created after the program, the Society of Relief for The Poor, Widows, and Small Children, which supported single mothers. Joanna decided to create the Riverside Asylum for orphaned children. In 1806 the Asylum was established but proved too small. After three decades Bethune recruited wealthy women to help contribute to a larger scaled facility. In 1840 Riverside was finally built and praised by a multitude of magazines for the beauty of the building as well as the care put into the children who attended.

Economic
- As the need for a larger facility became obvious, contributions were needed.
- Wealthy citizens were contacted and advertisements were placed in newspapers such as the Observer.
- A donation was made by a former orphan named McKavit. He was a second lieutenant of infantry.
- He had contributed to the Orphan Asylum Society every year after leaving the army and the day before he died he wrote his will.
- He left everything he owned to the Asylum, which was about $1,800.

Industrial
- The Orphan Asylum Society was located in Greenwich Village.
- There was a total of 81 deaths within the facility.
- In 1889, years after Riverside was established in New York, wealthy New Yorkers began to move northward.
- The Asylum became out of date and in 1901 Charles Schwab eventually bought the area. He went bankrupt in the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and he died penniless ten years later.
- Since he died penniless, Riverside was taken by the city, and created what we now know as the Schwab House.

Social
- Young orphans were considered naïve regarding class and lacked social graces, but seemed to enjoy their time at Riverside Asylum.
- In 1840, two young boys told a wealthy stranger that they liked it at Riverside "because we have not heard any one swear since we have been here."
- This incident defined the strong moral character of the area.
- Praise was published in a multitude of magazines including The Youth Magazine and Carroll's New York, New York City.
- Even The National Magazine stated they received "every necessary comfort of life, good food and clothing, protection from the corruptions of the world outside, and excellent training in physical, intellectual, and moral principles. No sectarianism corrupts their religious instruction."

Political
- Isabella Marshal Graham founded the Society of Relief for Widows with Small Children in 1797.
- Joanne Bethune, Isabella's daughter, wanted to care for the orphaned children and began establishing the asylum.
- Bethune was known as the treasurer and recruited other wealthy women to help with the development of Riverside.
- Supporters did not only include women, but also upper middle class families and men. Saint Thomas church also had great influence and provided their support.
- The church provided the asylum with a chapel for religious worship.

Cultural
- Many of the boys who entered the orphanage worked as mechanics or farmers and other boys left to join the army during the Civil War.
- Boys were taught singing and drilling while girls became servants at private homes.
- All of these children had an excellent physical, intellectual, and moral education.
- In 1865 the city was filling with Germans.
- In 1873 a volunteer named Mrs. Pell gave the orphanage 25 pocket bibles and said the children didn’t need German books because the new rule was that they would only be taught in English.